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CHAIR, NOW IN THE POSSESSION OF ANTHONY ASHFORD COOMBS OF PALERMO, ME., WHICH, IT IS SAID, WAS BROUGHT FROM FRANCE BY ANTHONY AND WHICH HAS REMAINED IN THE CUSTODY OF HIS BRANCH OF THE COOMBS FAMILY.

THE STORY OF  
ANTHONY COOMBS  
AND HIS  
DESCENDANTS

BY  
WILLIAM CAREY COOMBS



AMELIA, OHIO

1913

67579



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## FOREWORD.

I dedicate this little volume to the large family of descendants of Anthony Coombs (whether bearing the name or not) — my kinsfolk — with the hope that they may find as much pleasure in reading it as I have had in gathering and arranging these facts.

But why add another to the store of this already book-full world? Why go digging into the records of the past, to learn of our remote ancestors and their manner of life? Is there not enough in the present time to interest and instruct us? Some may be disposed to ask such questions, and they are worthy of an answer.

Ours was a worthy ancestor. He was not what the world calls a great man, but he was a *good* man, a conscientious man, an honest man, energetic in every movement which makes a man a good citizen. He was one of those who sacrificed for conscience' sake, who came to our shores to seek freedom from tyranny and injustice, and to found in the New World those institutions which we are so justly proud of, and which have made us the envy of the world. We do well to rescue his life from oblivion.

He was the ancestor of a numerous family of descendants, whose record is remarkably free from those things that bring discredit, a family who have been forward in business enterprise, patriotic endeavor, promoters of churches, schools, and social progress, people who stand for advanced thought and good citizenship, — the bone and sinew of the land. Surely, to place such a record in the hands of our children and our children's children will be an inspiration to live worthily, which is well worth the money and pains that it may have required.

I have chosen to put the facts that I have gathered in the form of a story, as to many this is the most interesting. In doing so I have tried to make it true to the facts that I have gathered, and have appended some of the more important documents that I have found. Aside from this, I have not given authorities.

In the matter of genealogies, I fear that I may not be as successful as I wished, but will try to give enough so that those now living may be able to show their descent from the same Anthony.

There were other Coombs families. There was an English family, who settled at Marblehead earlier than Anthony, and whose descendants are found in New England today. They were English in descent and sympathies. There was also one John Coombs, who came over "in the ship *Amitic*" from London about 1633-1635. He also was English, and settled at Plymouth. His son Francis was one of the proprietors of Middleboro, Mass. Francis seems to have left no male heir, as after his death his daughters advertised themselves as his only heirs and took possession of his property. There is also a large family of Coombs in Virginia and Kentucky whose ancestry I have not been able to trace. There was one Austen Coombs among the early settlers of Jamestown (1625) who might have been their ancestor, though they have a tradition that their ancestors were two brothers who emigrated from England.

But Anthony was our ancestor. He was undoubtedly a native of France, and we are proud of him, so, with the best wishes for you all, I subscribe myself

Your well-wisher and kinsman,

WILLIAM CAREY COOMBS.

Amelia, Ohio.

July, 1912.

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## PART I.

### CHAPTER I. ANTHONY IN FRANCE.

My story begins among the vine-clad hills of sunny France. Picture to yourself a well-to-do French family away back in the 17th century, — the father a man of stern, uncompromising nature. What his conscience told him was right, must be carried out at all hazards. He was a firm Roman Catholic, as had been his ancestors before him. Was not this the true Church? Had it not grown, with God's blessing, to be a great power? Was not the Pope the true successor of the Apostle Peter, and was he not right in his efforts to drive the heretics back into the true Church? He could see but one answer to these questions.

Then there was the gentle-spirited French mother, — and the French women are said to be good mothers and frugal, thrifty housewives. She was faithful in her duties to the Church, but her piety was of the unostentatious and reserved kind. Very seldom did she discuss religious matters with the more imperious head of the household.

Children there were, but of only one do we know anything definite — little Antoine. The French pronounce it something like An-twan, in their smooth-flowing tongue. We call it Anthony. The probability is that he had an older brother, for in those days it was customary to educate the older son for the army and the second for the Church. And little Antoine was destined for the Church. One thing we are sure of: little Antoine played as other little boys play, and when childish

troubles came he went to the gentle mother for that comfort which mothers always give, and as she soothed his little sorrows another love-band was thrown around her heart, binding her closer to her little boy. As she puts a kiss upon his brow, she almost wishes that he could always be little and near to her. But he grew and played, and the circle of his acquaintance widened. Finally came that time which mothers so often look forward to with anxiety, — the time of developing manhood, when the boy begins to think for himself and does things without consulting mother. The time when the question, will he choose the right or the wrong, lies like an unsolved problem on the mother's heart.

The father says, "Antoine must be prepared to serve the Church." So he seeks out a monastery of the highest order, — an abbey, — places him in the care of the abbot, and the mother's companionship with him is more than ever broken. There were plenty of such institutions in those days. Then the Church and State were one. In our time the State has broken them up as hotbeds of sedition, confiscated the property of the Church, and withdrawn State support. Then the "Orders" were strong and wealthy. The lives of these supposedly holy men were often inconsistent with their pretensions, their habits gross, often to beastliness, and their "learning" such as you might expect them to have in the fitful glare of their unnatural lives. God never intended men to be made holy by such a life, but rather to be holy in the performance of life's active duties, mingling freely with their fellow-men.

The young man soon saw through these hollow pretensions, and a pious old servant of the abbot, finding him willing to know, opened his eyes still more by



revealing things from his own experience, — no doubt at the risk of his own life. Then that “Book of Books” came in to open his eyes still more. “The entrance of Thy word giveth light.” It was a part of an English Bible. Had he been taught to read English? Or was it translated for him by that old servant? No one else would have dared to do it. I am inclined to think that he could read English.

As the light broke in upon him, the seriousness of his situation became plain. He was of a conscientious family. His own conscience would not tolerate the thought of becoming such a teacher of religion as were those to whom his instruction had been intrusted. Could he be a heretic? For more than a hundred years a cruel war had been waged against the heretics. They had been burned alive, cruelly tortured, and slain by the thousands, and he had always been taught to hate them. Yet, better a heretic than a hypocrite. To whom could he go? Not to his conscientious but stern father. But the gentle mother he remembered was different. She had not spoken against the Huguenots, as the heretics were called, and had she not been moved to tears by the cruel punishments meted out to them? Had she not soothed him in the time of his little troubles, and could he not trust her in this great one? To his joy she met him with sympathy and advice. To remain there was almost certain death and degradation. He must flee to America, that refuge opened for the oppressed and persecuted. It would be hard, but better separation and life, than separation with death and disgrace. Her tender boy must go among strangers in a wild, new land, but would not her prayers bring the watchful care of an omnipresent God?

Then began the secret preparation. A ship was heard of, about to sail from a port at a distance of three days' travel. With a mother's courage when urged by love, she began. Clothes were prepared. Her frugal savings were quietly gotten together and a box of money given him. By some kind of ruse a carriage was arranged for by which he could be conveyed by night to the ship without exciting suspicion. Quiet and secret talks were had with the dear boy whom she was never to see again. How human hearts are stirred, and what deep emotions of the human soul are brought to the surface, by such trials as these! It is the subsoiling of the soul by God's own plow, that it may bear more fruit.

Such was the home of our ancestor, Anthony Coombs, and such were the circumstances which caused him to emigrate to America.

That was more than two hundred years ago. That brave mother and her boy have long since passed to the Great Beyond. Let us hope that in that place which Jesus said he went to prepare for his disciples, they have been reunited, have many times talked it over, and said with Paul, "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more and exceeding weight of glory."

## CHAPTER II. WHEN AND WHERE.

That Anthony Coombs was born in France, I can not doubt. As nearly as I can make out he was born about 1642. What was the condition of France and the rest of the world at that time? In France, King Louis XIV began his long reign of seventy-seven years in 1643. His court was then the most polished and luxurious in Europe. His reign the most imperious and despotic. "L'état c'est moi," — I am the state, — was his motto. Although there was much oppression and poverty, there was much of culture among the privileged classes. Barons and titled persons were numerous and exempt from taxes. Literature and art flourished, and magnificent cathedrals and churches are still standing which were built centuries before that time.

It was a time of great activity in the world in general. The first Bible had been printed by Gutenberg in 1450, and books were comparatively plenty. Oliver Cromwell began his stirring career in England in 1642, and beheaded King Charles I in 1649. Literature flourished in England. John Milton published *Paradise Lost* in 1667. William Shakespeare died in 1616. In 1609 Galileo made his first refracting telescope, with which he made great astronomical discoveries and confirmed the Copernican theory of the universe. About one hundred years before, the Great Reformation, under Luther, Calvin, and Zwingli, was in full force. France had remained essentially Catholic, and it continued so well into the next century. The persecution of the Huguenots, Albigenses, and other Protestants had been marked by a severity and cruelty hardly equaled in any other country.

Such were the conditions of the world when young Anthony was obliged to flee from home and native land that he might enjoy religious freedom.

It is only by a recent act that the French government has sought to break the galling connection of Church and State, and a Coombs was one of the most efficient agents in carrying it out (the late premier, M. Combes).

Where in France was that home from which Anthony was obliged to flee? So far we have no certain means of knowing. The late Premier of France, Emile Combes, — so active and vigorous in carrying out the act for the separation of Church and State, — writes his name Combes, a spelling sometimes found among the descendants of Anthony in America. From what is said of him and his character in the newspapers, of his firmness, his uncompromising nature where principle is at stake, and his incorruptible integrity, which mark him as a characteristic Coombs, we willingly concede to him a probable relationship. His home is at Pons, a small city about forty miles north from Bordeaux, about the same distance from La Rochelle, and about twenty miles east of the sea at the mouth of the river Gironde. The United States consul at Bordeaux writes me that the name "Combes" is a very common one in that part of France. So I am strongly inclined to believe that Anthony was from that part of France, and that he belonged to that same Combes family.

This is what the newspapers said concerning the late Premier:

#### FRANCE'S "BEST-HATED" MAN.

PARIS, Aug. 27. — They are calling M. Combes, France's new Premier, "the best-hated man in France." That doesn't mean that he is not a patriotic, honest statesman — it means that

he has ideas of his own and is fearless in carrying them out, regardless of whose feelings are hurt.

Besides being rather like President Roosevelt, in point of courageousness and determination, France's new Premier is also like him in being chock full of energy. Probably no statesman ever made a quicker job of choosing a Cabinet — 48 hours.

His energy is the more remarkable in that he is a man of 67.

#### BRIBE OFFER TO PREMIER.

PARIS, June 11. — The Chamber of Deputies has decided, almost unanimously, to appoint a commission to investigate charges made yesterday by Premier Combes that an attempt was made to bribe him.

“In December, 1902,” he said, “the Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior (the Premier's son, Edgar,) informed me that he had received a visit from a person offering 2,000,000 francs (\$400,000) if I would bring in a bill authorizing the Carthusian monks to remain at Grande Chartreuse. I replied that the person had better not enter my room unless he wanted to go out the window, and attached no further importance to the incident until a few months later, after a bill refusing an authorization to the Carthusians had been brought in. The newspapers accused the Secretary of having asked a million for me to make a speech in favor of the Carthusians. An investigation was made, and the intermediary, who was M. La Grave, the Commissioner of France to the St. Louis Exposition, was examined, but he refused to name the person for whom he had acted. The Minister of Commerce cabled to M. La Grave ordering him to give the name. He replied that he had communicated it to M. Millerand, his former chief. M. Millerand sought me and begged me not to divulge the name for political reasons. The matter was then dropped.”

Objectors to the theory of a French origin of the family have insisted that “Coombs” is an English, and

not a French, name. The fact that there is a large and influential family of that name in France today effectually disposes of that objection. And this French family might well have had an English origin, for in 1152 Henry II, King of England, married Elenor, Duchess of Aquitania. This province, in which the three cities of Bordeaux, La Rochelle, and Pons are situated, fell to him as her dowry. It remained mostly under English control until 1451. During these three hundred years of English occupation, it is but natural to think that many English families would settle there, and, in the course of time, become amalgamated with the French people. The fact that young Anthony found part of an English Bible strengthens this theory.

The name "Coombs" probably originated in Wales. There is a large and influential family of that name in Wales, whose ancient coat of arms bore this legend: "He who strives will conquer." The Welsh name for a small valley is "cwm,"—pronounced "coom." A Welshman said to me, "John y cwm," would mean "John of the valley," and it would be very easy in the course of time to drop the y, making it "John Coom." In England, whence the Welsh were driven, the name remains, for in many places hollows or valleys are called "combs" or "coombs." An old English corn measure containing four bushels was called a "comb" or "coomb," probably on account of its large size. The name as a surname seems to have become somewhat common in England, whence it spread to other countries. We find McCombs in Scotland and Ireland, Kooms in German countries, and Combes in France. The French, as is common in French pronunciation, drop the final letters and call it "Comb."

### CHAPTER III. ANTHONY IN AMERICA.

When we think of our ancestors we are apt to think of them only as venerable, old men; but do not think so of this ancestor, for tradition gives his age when he arrived in America at from seventeen to nineteen years, — very likely not older than seventeen, — a mere schoolboy, fleeing for his life, from home and friends, to a new country full of dangers and hardships. The vessel probably touched at some English ports, and possibly at Glasgow, for there was a Scotch company on board. It has been thought that he first landed at Plymouth in 1675, but this has been found to be a mistake. He may have landed at Plymouth at that time, but it was not his first landing, direct from France. The genealogist who delves into these old histories, and depends much on tradition, has many interesting problems to solve. Traditions, as to main facts, are generally true, but are frequently very unreliable when it comes to particulars. Names, places, dates, and generations get strangely mixed in the memories of good people, and the genealogist finds it a very interesting work to separate the true from the false, and make the various stories fit into one another. When he has succeeded, he has tests by which he feels fairly sure of his work.

Did this young man make any friends during this tedious voyage on a sailing vessel? Doubtless he told his story and found sympathetic listeners, for one tradition says that he took the name of the captain or some one on board the ship — of which more will be said later. The most likely tradition says that he landed at

Boston not long before 1660. From there the indications are that he went to Salem.

Tradition also says that he was always very grateful to some good woman who took him into her own home and treated him as she did her own children. Another tradition says that after coming to America he, in company with two others, bought land of the Indians and started a settlement where the town of Wells, Me., now stands, but this is evidently a mistake as to place. History says that the town of Wells was laid out in 1644, that the land on which it was built was never bought of the Indians, but was held by some kind of a deed from Thomas Gorges, for his brother (or father) F. Gorges, who received his title from the king. Moreover, in a careful search of the old records of the town the name "Coombs" does not appear. It was not Wells, but Bath.

Who were the two men who were thus associated with him? A local tradition says that the ancestor of the Coombs families near Bath was a Scotchman, who bought land on New Meadows River, — three miles west of Bath, — and that two other men were associated with him, one of whom was Thomas Stephens. That "Scotchman," as we shall afterwards show, was Anthony. The third could hardly be other than Rev. Robert Gutch, who purchased the land on which the city of Bath now stands, running back to New Meadows River. This will appear more plainly as we proceed. The Rev. Robert Gutch, who seems to have come from the southern part of England, became a member of the Congregational Church at Salem in 1641. He was made a "freeman" at Salem in 1642. Of his removal to Maine it is said, "Becoming involved in debt, he went to this, then wilderness, country."



And who was that good woman who "mothered" the lonely French lad? As the wife of Rev. Robert Gutch had at least seven children at Salem, she would be just the kind of woman to take in another, for it is a noticeable fact that as the family grows the mother-heart grows accordingly. And as that box of money that his self-sacrificing mother had given to young Anthony was not yet exhausted, what is more natural than that he should be invited to go along and invest it in land? I am aware that some of this is somewhat suppositional, but it seems quite probable. Anyhow, it makes such a nice story that I shall try to believe it until something more likely turns up. There was such a good-hearted, motherly woman, and in his inexperience and loneliness there must have been some man to whom he looked for advice.

## CHAPTER IV. "ALISTER."

And now comes one of the most curious and puzzling chapters of this story. Savage's Genealogical Dictionary gives as one of the early settlers of Maine:

Coombs, Alister . . . 1665.

Who this Alister Coombs was, or what became of him, nobody could tell. It remained a Sphinx-like riddle until recent years. To my mind it is clearly solved. The first clue to it was given to me by the Rev. C. N. Sinnett now of Fayette, Iowa. Then Mr. John A. Fisher, late register of Sagadahoc county, Maine, kindly sent to me a copy of an Indian deed, made by Robin Hood and other Indian chiefs, for a second purchase which Thomas Stephens made of them in 1675. This deed was for lands lying south of the Pejepscot (now Androscoggin) River, and was bounded in part by "the land of Thomas Stephens, now in possession, East," and to "Alester Coombs his land south." And it further describes the southern boundary by saying "And from the head of Alester Coombs his marsh westerly to a certain path commonly called the Carrying path," and thence to the Pejepscot River.

Now this fixes the location of the land of Alester Coombs as just west of New Meadows River.

The local tradition found by Mr. Sinnett says that he was a Scotchman, who with two others bought land of the Indians, and that one of these was this same Thomas Stephens. It also says that he was driven out or killed in the Indian war which broke out in 1675. That his children went to Plymouth and Rochester, and that

afterward his three sons, Peter, Anthony, and John, returned and settled on the land.

Now all of these facts agree with the tradition of Mrs. Tibbetts (printed on pages 16-19), even to the names of the three oldest sons, but there are some slight differences. For instance, the local tradition mentions a sister of the three brothers, "Abigail who married a Berry." She belonged to a later generation.\* Then Mrs. Tibbetts was mistaken as to the place, which was not Wells, but Bath, as is elsewhere explained.

That Anthony was of French nationality is attested by the circumstantial account of how he came to leave France, and this is corroborated by many other traditions.

That he was French, but took a Scotch name, "McAllister," is shown by the tradition which comes through Mrs. Holden (printed on pages 19, 20).

There are so many points in which the different accounts agree, and the explanation of the differences is so reasonable, that the conclusion is irresistible that "Alister" and Anthony were one.

In explanation of this assumed name and nationality, Mr. Charles E. Allen of Cedar Grove, Me., — a well-known local historian, — writes, "If you knew the intense antipathy of the Massachusetts Puritans, — and all through New England, to the French, — Protestant as well as Catholic, — you would not wonder that he changed his name and passed as a Scotchman." He was young, lonely, and no doubt depended much on the advice of others, and was easily persuaded to do this, but the Coombs's, so far as I have known them, are not cowardly, and have an inbred dislike to anything that

\* Later investigation shows that there was a sister Abigail. (See p. 47.)

savors in the least of hypocrisy or deceit. I think he was somewhat ashamed of it, for after he was driven out by the Indians in 1675 he assumed his right name, and ever afterwards was "Anthony."

In company with Mr. George A. Coombs, in the fall of 1911, I visited the ground on New Meadows River, and settled to my satisfaction the approximate location of the purchase of "Alister" Coombs, which was said to contain over 2000 acres. It extended along the west side of New Meadows River, from somewhere near where the old bridge was, north of Howard's Point, southward, probably to Woodward Point. The marsh is at the lower part of Thompson's Brook. There is another small marsh about one half mile farther west, but this could hardly be the one mentioned in the deed.

I can not describe the intensity of my feeling as I stood on this land. Across the blue waters of New Meadows River were beautiful hills, covered partly with a growth of mixed evergreen and deciduous trees, and partly by cultivated fields. The Coombs's mostly live on that side of the river now. North, the river widened out and formed Middle Bay, with Howard's Point jutting well out between the bay and the river, — a high, steep, wooded bluff. On the west side of the river was a fine strip of fertile land, gently sloping toward the river. Back of this a rocky ledge cropped out, beyond which is a sandy plain — mostly waste land.

I tried to imagine it as it was two hundred and fifty years ago, covered with a heavy growth of mixed evergreens and other timber. By the river, a little clearing and a rude cabin. Standing by, a lonely French youth, not yet out of his teens. He was posing as a Scotchman, and wondering whether it was right for him to

do so. He gazes with pleasure on the beautiful river, where the setting sun behind him throws its last gleaming rays. But his face saddens as his mind goes back to sunny France. He thinks of the stern father, the loving and loyal mother, kinsfolk, and companions. Then, as he turns and looks over his possessions, — a vast domain it seems to him, — a look of pleasure comes again over his face. But did it satisfy him? Did he go back into the cabin, bar the door against all intruders, and throw himself on his rude bed for a night of sound sleep? Or was it an outburst of grief and a flood of tears, which is Nature's only balm for sore and weary hearts?

## CHAPTER V. TRADITIONS.

### ANDREW COOMBS'S HISTORY OF THE COOMBS FAMILY.

The following historical sketch was communicated to me by Grandmother Abigail Tibbetts, formerly the wife of Ebenezer Coombs, my grandfather, in the eighty-fifth year of her age, and was committed to writing by myself in the state of Ohio, February 26, 1835. She was a woman of an uncommonly retentive memory, and as the substance of the narrative has ever been familiar in the family, there is little doubt of its general correctness. But at this late period, and considering her advanced age, it can not be expected to be correct in all its particulars. The early dates can not be ascertained from any information in our possession. The calculations were made in the following manner:

Joshua Coombs, father-in-law to my grandmother, was often heard to say he was born in the year 1706. He was the youngest son and next to youngest child of Anthony Coombs, who came over from France at the age of eighteen or nineteen years. He probably was not married for several years after his arrival in America, and, as he had five sons and at least three daughters, he probably was fifty years of age when Joshua was born. If this calculation be correct, Anthony Coombs was born about A.D. 1656, and removed to America about 1674 or 1675. He was undoubtedly born in France. Of his parentage nothing is known except the mere allusions in the following narrative:

Anthony Coombs had five sons, Anthony, Peter, John, Ithamer, and Joshua. Joshua had six sons, Joshua, Stephen, Daniel, Ebenezer, John, and Jacob. Ebenezer

had two sons, Andrew and Ebenezer, and one daughter. Andrew Coombs had four sons, Andrew, Harvey, Joseph J., and Thomas M., and four daughters, the eldest the writer of this sketch.

The circumstances which led to the emigration of Anthony Coombs from France to America were as follows:

It appears he was designed by his father for a Roman Catholic priest or friar. He was accordingly placed under the superintendence of an old, monastical priest, whose rigid principles and injunctions occasioned some reflections in his mind. The entire and absolute restrictions from matrimonial connections laid upon the priests appeared to him as unnatural, unreasonable, and improper, and upon a public occasion, when the priests and others were absent, he fell into conversation with an old man who served as waiter to the old priest, and whose wife had been waiting-maid to the abbess. From him he learned the total incongruity between their professions and practices. He found, with the old man, part of an English Bible, and he also ascertained that he was a dissenter from the Catholic religion, but profound secrecy was necessary for his safety. The old man conversed with him on religion as far as he dared.

So much was he interested with the old man's conversation, and such a love did he experience for the old man, that he sought occasion whenever opportunity offered to converse with him. Such was the effect upon his mind that he resolved, let what might be the consequences, to abandon the Catholic religion, even if it should occasion him to expire at the stake; and above all he abhorred the idea of becoming a teacher of such a religion. Here was a time of severe trial. He could not endure the idea of continuing in his present situ-

ation, but what was he to do? If he made known his sentiments he would immediately be put to death: if he broke his mind to his father, he would show him no mercy. At length he recollected that his mother did not speak against the Huguenots, or Protestants, and he had often seen her weep at the execution of the victims. He ventured at length to make known his situation to her, and to his surprise found her possessing the same sentiments. She told him she had dissented from the Romish religion before he was born, but had with the utmost secrecy concealed it from her husband, and his father, who she believed, if he knew it, would have her put to death. She advised him to leave the country immediately and seek an asylum in some land of toleration. She soon heard of a vessel, in a port at a distance of three days' journey, about to sail for America. She provided him with suitable clothing and gave him a box of money, and contrived to have him conveyed away in a carriage under cover of night. They parted, never in this world to meet again. He never afterwards heard from his parents, and they probably never heard from him. He arrived in America about, as has been supposed, A.D. 1675, and landed at Plymouth, now in the state of Massachusetts.

He united in a company consisting of two beside himself, and purchased land of the Indians, and commenced a settlement in the now state of Maine. The land they purchased included the town of Wells [should be Bath]. A number of tenants were settled on the land, so that a smart settlement was commenced, when the Indians made depredations on them. The proprietors fled, but the tenants determined to stand their ground in defense. Some of them were killed, and the settlement



was measurably destroyed. After peace was restored the other two proprietors returned and took possession of their land, but Anthony refused to do so. He said that those who risked their lives, and the orphans and widows of those that lost their lives, in defense of the premises, whilst they fled and forsook them, were more deserving of the possessions than themselves. Notwithstanding the solicitations of his friends to return and take his possessions, which undoubtedly were of considerable value, and all his estate, he steadfastly refused to do it. His children afterward desired to get possession of the lands, but he would not yield to their wishes, and; it was supposed, even went so far as to destroy the deeds and records by which he held the lands. He went to Cape Ann, and there married. He removed to the town of Gloucester, thence to Rochester, where he erected an iron works. He there lived the remainder of his life.

Joshua Coombs was born in Rochester [Mass.] A.D. 1706. He was a shoemaker. He removed from Rochester to Portland, Me., where he married; thence to Newburyport, Mass., thence to Bath, Me., where he purchased land on the New Meadows River.

#### TRADITIONS OF THE COOMBS FAMILY.

By Mrs. Henrietta Coombs Holden.

From my earliest recollection I have been told that our family of Coombs's was of French origin. I have heard my grandmother, father, and my mother—also other members of the family—often repeat it. I take much account of what my mother told me, because she was much interested in genealogy and often spoke of her own descent. I remember once when she had

been speaking of her own people, I asked her about my father's ancestors, and she said that the Coombs family was of very good stock, and that the first in this country was a French Huguenot — a mere boy when he came, under eighteen years of age, who left his home in secret. She must have told me something about his mother, for I remember that I asked her if he ever saw his mother again after he left his home, and she said she believed he never saw or heard from her afterward.

I understood that this ancestor changed his name from fear of persecution, taking the name of a man on board the ship in which he came to America. I think the man was an officer of the vessel, named McAlester. This boy immigrant was heard to say in after life that he might have perished after landing in this country if some kind-hearted woman had not taken him into her home and cared for him as she did for her own children, and that in later years he tried to recompense her for this kindness to him, as far as he could. I can not now recall the name of this woman — if, indeed, I ever heard it.

I remember hearing my mother say that the name "Worden" was the same as a name spelled differently, but I had no idea of whom she was speaking. Also that some one called Dorcas disliked her name so much that she wanted no descendant of hers named for her. I never connected this with any one until of late, when I learned that the wife of Anthony Coombs was Dorcas Wooden.

I have been told of the two brothers who settled on the west side of New Meadows River and established mills there, — probably sawmills, — and that they married sisters, daughters of a man with whom they had been in business, or by whom they had been employed. I do not give this last as a fact. I have never tried to verify it. Babson's History of Gloucester gives the wife of Anthony as Marcia or Mercy Hodgkins. Peter and Anthony, Jr., were the two brothers who settled near Howard's Point.

COPY OF THE SCOTCH TRADITION, AS GIVEN BY MR. SINNETT.

A descendant of the old New Meadows Coombs family (your own line) says it was a Scotchman, Alister Coombs, who bought of Robin Hood, 1660, the Indian chief, over 1000 acres of land on New Meadows River. He had *two companions*, one Thomas Stevens. He, Allister Coombs, *was killed or driven out by the Indians some time about 1675*, and his children *went to Plymouth and Rochester, Mass.* Early in 1700 *four children of Allister Coombs had returned to the old estate on New Meadows River: Anthony Coombs, Peter Coombs, John Coombs, and Abigail Coombs*, — who married a Berry. The old estate was divided among these four. The place where the cabin of Allister Coombs stood is well known. *It was near the old Thompson place.*

Now note these facts concerning this "Scotchman:"

1. He bought land on New Meadows, near the old Thompson place; the very land to which the children of Anthony returned.

2. He had two companions; so did Anthony.

3. The purchase was made in 1660; the same date as the Gutch purchase.

4. His children went to Rochester, Mass.; so did the children of Anthony.

5. Early in 1700 (1730-1740) Anthony, Peter, John (and afterward Joshua) returned to this land. These were certainly Anthony's children. "Allister" and Anthony were certainly one. It is almost equally certain that Robert Gutch was the other companion of Anthony.

## CHAPTER VI. IN MAINE.

The coast of Maine is peculiar. From the city of Portland—once called Falmouth—the general coast line, running northeast for about one hundred and thirty miles, is almost a straight line, but studded with islands, while the land is deeply indented with inlets. These inlets widen and narrow, bend and turn, until they sometimes come together and form islands, sometimes forming peninsulas with only narrow necks. Sea water is not uncommon ten, fifteen, or twenty miles inland, with tides ebbing and flowing regularly. Up the large rivers the tides flow much farther.

From the city of Portland, extending northeasterly for about twenty-five miles, is a body of quiet, open water known as Casco Bay. It is protected on the outside by islands, and contains some islands and inlets of its own. About ten miles east of the head of this bay the Kennebec River comes down from the north (see map). About twelve or fifteen miles from the mouth of the Kennebec lies the city of Bath, strung along the west bank for about four miles. About nine miles due west from Bath is Brunswick, with a present population of about 2500. To this point the Androscoggin River (formerly called Pejepscot) comes down from the northwest. From here, after a fall of twenty feet or more, affording valuable water-power, the river turns abruptly east, then northeast, into a beautiful body of water one or two miles wide, where its waters meet the waters of the Kennebec from the north, and the waters of the sea from the south. This is known by the appropriate name of Merry Meeting Bay. Well into the

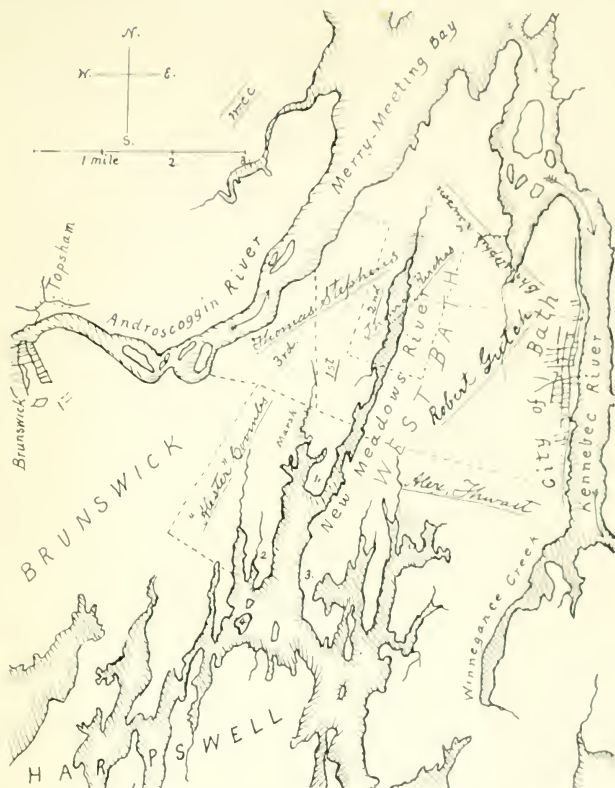
point between these rivers come the waters of New Meadows River, which is not properly a river, but rather an inlet from the sea. The head of New Meadows River is only about one mile from Merry Meeting Bay, and two and one half west of the Kennebec, and about three miles from the point where the waters of the Kennebec emerge from Merry Meeting Bay. From the head to the sea, it keeps an average distance of about three miles from the Kennebec. For about half of its lower course it forms the eastern boundary of Great Island in the township of Harpswell. It has many arms, bays, and coves. In fact, this whole region is so intersected with inlets that it is but a few miles to tide-water from almost any point.

The significance to us of this peculiar formation is found in the facility which it afforded the early settlers for exploration and settlement. With their small boats they could safely navigate the quiet waters of these bays, inlets, and rivers. Indians were living in that country in considerable numbers, so they could not go far inland. As they traversed these quiet waters they noted the gentle slopes where the timber was heavy and the indications were for good soil. When they wanted to make a settlement they made some kind of bargain with the Indians for these fertile spots, and took from them an old-fashioned, English deed, the phraseology of which, in its legal formality and repetition, the poor Indian hardly understood. It is enough to make a white man smile. These deeds were only in part recognized by the Crown, but they served as a title for the early settlers. We may well imagine these three exploring in their boat by way of New Meadows River. There was Rev. Robert Gutch, the leader—he had

saved what he could from the wreck of his fortune. Thomas Stevens (or Stephens), of a speculative disposition, — for we read of several of his transactions in land. Lastly, the young French *protégé*, with what was left of that box of money provided by his mother. He had dropped the Frenchy “Anthony,” and taken the more Scotch-like “Alester.”

Gutch seems to have had first choice, and he took a large body of generally good land, extending three miles east to the Kennebec. Stevens' land was north and extended to the Pejepscot River, and near the head of New Meadows River. Young Coombs was left with the more modest portion of 2000 acres or more lying west of New Meadows River, as before described. The deed of Rev. Robert Gutch was dated May 29, 1660.

A few pioneers had preceded them. Near the head of New Meadows River one Thomas Purchas had settled in 1628. He was a fur trader and had associated with him one Richard Collicutt, and had a grant of land from King Charles I. Just where he lived no one seems to know certainly, but it must have been near the head of New Meadows River. His title was so far recognized that in the final settlement of titles, some seventy-five or eighty years later, a tract of 300 acres was set off for his heirs. I am inclined to believe that his grant was for a strip around the head of New Meadows River, and included the site of New Meadows Inn of today. Thomas Stevens is said to have bought a piece of land from him, which might have been on the west side of the head of the river, thus giving him an outlet. Stevens certainly owned land there, for in describing his second purchase from the Indians he bounds it on the east by his own land, and New Meadows River is not mentioned.



MAP OF THE NEW MEADOWS REGION, SHOWING THE PURCHASES OF THE EARLIEST SETTLERS, WITH THEIR PROBABLE BOUNDARIES

Thomas Purchas came in 1625; had a grant from the king.

Alexander Thwait came about the same time, but got an Indian deed in 1660.

Rev. Robert Gutch: Indian deed, 1660.

"Alester" Coombs and Thomas Stephens came together; probably with Gutch in 1660. Stephens' first purchase was from the Indians; second, from Thos. Purchas; third, from "Robbin Hood." (See copy of deed.)

Lawson came in 1667

REFERENCES: 1. Howard Point. 2. Woodward Point. 3. Foster Point. 4. Coombs Island.





Purchass was not a man of very agreeable disposition, for he quarreled much with his neighbors, the Indians disliked him, he got in debt, separated from his wife, went to England, and died in 1697. He left three children: Thomas, Jane, and Elizabeth. Then there was one Thwait, who owned land adjoining that of Rev. Robert Gutch, to the south.

Some earlier settlements were made in that region. At Arrowsic and Georgetown, on the east side of the Kennebec, and five to ten miles below, settlements had been started as early as 1623. A few miles northeast of Bath, across the river, at Neguasset, there lived an Indian chief whose Indian name was Mahatiwormet, but known to the Whites as Robin Hood. In 1639 Edward Betterman and John Brown bought land there of Robin Hood and started a settlement. They paid him, for the land, one hogshead of corn and thirty sound pumpkins. What was paid for the land about New Meadows I do not know. The deed for the second purchase made by Thomas Stevens in 1675 only says, "in consideration of a certain sum of good and sufficient pay." Was he ashamed to say how much? One Francis Small bought of the Indians two miles of land, and the consideration was, "One trading coat a year for Capsic, and one gallon of liquor a year for Ammoncongan." This was before prohibition struck Maine. This Robin Hood claimed all the land about the mouth of the Kennebec and other lands along the sea. Aside from these settlements the country was a wilderness and occupied only by the Indians and the wild animals.

## CHAPTER VII. TROUBLE.

The land having been bought, the next step would be to build cabins in which to live; then to clear the land, on which to raise such crops as could be grown in that far-north climate. Early flint corn, wheat, oats, potatoes, and buckwheat, with pumpkins and turnips as catch-crops, must be grown, for these people well knew that their very lives were dependent on their own exertions.

Where did "Alister" build his cabin? One tradition says that the spot could be shown, and that it was near the old Thompson place. This would place it near the upper end of his land. This is confirmed by the fact that Peter, who was the first to come to the New Meadows country, is said to have settled first at Howard's Point. It is natural also to think that the early settlers would group together for mutual helpfulness and protection. I assume that the settlement was made around the head of New Meadows River for these reasons: 1. The three pieces of land were located on or near that river, one east, one north, and one west. 2. It was more accessible than by way of the Kennebec. The three settlements on the other side of the river were likewise not made on the Kennebec, but on the quiet waters of Back River, an inlet similar to New Meadows River. There is another spot farther down the river where I should like to think he lived—it is such a beautiful place. Later it was known as Biven's shipyard, and was the location of the Ivan House, which was destroyed by fire some years ago.

Here on his own land—at least his Indian deed said

so — he lived a lonely, half-satisfied life, for we have nothing to show that he had married. Before him was the river; behind him was the forest — and the Indians. Rocking on the waves, rising and falling with the tides, was the ever-ready boat. There was good fishing in the river, summer and winter. Lobsters and clams were plenty, and the woods furnished game. He left but little by which we can trace him during the fifteen years which he spent here. In 1673 he signed his name as witness to an Indian deed. As this is the only public record in which he signed his own name, it is interesting to know that he signed it “Alister Coomby.” This, and his mention in the Stevens deed and the Pejepscot Papers, seems to be all the public record that is made concerning him during the fifteen years that he lived there.

But starting homes and clearing land were not the only objects of these adventurers. They must have settlers and purchasers, if they were to get good out of their investment. So in some way word was sent back and inducements were offered. They became pioneer real-estate agents. Let us hope that, — well, we wish to cast no reflections on our own generation, and will not say it. But they got them, for our tradition says that a “right smart” settlement had been started.

This peaceful period was destined to come to an end. The Indians had occupied this land before the Whites came. For mere trifles they had been cajoled into the making of deeds which turned the most fertile spots over to the white men. Unquestionably the Indians were wronged. Worse than all, they saw the more powerful white men turning their hunting grounds into cultivated fields, and gradually pushing the red man

back. The Indian suppresses his emotion, but is it any wonder that, when all this pent-up jealousy and fear did break out, it struck terror into the hearts of the settlers? For a description of the beginning of this outbreak, and of the very raid which drove Anthony Coombs and his associates from their possessions, I can not do better than to give the following, copied mainly from Wheeler's History of Brunswick:

Sept. 4th or 5th [1675] 25 Indians pillaged the house of Thomas Purchase. They robbed the house of liquor ammunition etc., but did no injury to the females, who were fortunately the only occupants at the time. When complained of for this depredation, they attempted to justify themselves on the ground that Purchase had injured them in their trading.

A few days later a party of 25 whites went in a sloop and two boats to New Meadows River. Near the house of Thomas Purchase they found Indians pillaging. In attempting to get between the Indians and the woods, they came upon three of their spies. One of these, attempting to reach the river, they shot. The second was wounded but escaped across a stream to a canoe. The third escaped but gave the alarm. The Indians however remained concealed until the corn was all gathered and the boats loaded, when they gave the war-whoop, rushed upon them, wounded several, and carried off the boat loads in triumph. Some time the next year Purchase's house was burned and he was compelled to leave. The war was now fairly opened, the settlers all obliged to flee, and the Indians emboldened by their successes, sought trophies for the tomahawk and scalping knife in every direction, at the door of every plantation of Maine.

So, as our tradition tells us, the proprietors fled. The tenants who could not well get away banded together and stood for their defense. Some were killed. At Woodward Point, a few miles farther down, I was told

by Mr. Woodward, who lives there, that he has counted as many as seven old cellars. This is a favorable place, and I think it likely that this is where these families bunched together and defended themselves. This was the beginning of King Philip's War, which lasted three years; there were frequent outbreaks, and the country did not become safe for settlers until 1713. We do not know much about this part of Anthony's life, but it was destined to have much to do with the history of his descendants.

## CHAPTER VIII. LOVE.

It comes to most men, and our story would be incomplete without a love story.

According to one tradition, on the breaking out of the war Anthony went to Plymouth, but if so, he did not stay there long, for I find no record of his residence there. It is more probable that he went, with the other proprietors, back to the neighborhood of Salem. Plymouth is about thirty-five miles southeast from Boston, and Rochester is about twenty-five miles southwest of Plymouth. The twenty years between the time when he was driven out of Maine and the removal to Rochester must have been mostly spent in Essex county, Massachusetts. Records and traditions connect him, during this time, with Salem, Beverly, Gloucester, Cape Ann, Wenham, and even Newburyport is mentioned, and they are all in Essex county. These places are from twelve to forty miles northeasterly from Boston.

Tradition says that he was married at Cape Ann, but we find in the York records the following:

At York Maine, Feb. 5, 1688, Anthony Coombs was married to Dorcas Wooden, of Salem Mass.

But Cupid is a freakish fellow. He seems to take a special delight in mating those who are not alike, the blonde and the brunette, the long and the short. Abraham Lincoln horrified Washington aristocrats at his first public reception by this introduction of himself and his short, dumpy wife: "Gentlemen, this is the *long* and the *short* of the presidency." It was somewhat so with Anthony. If we are correct as to the time of his birth,

—and I think we are about right, — he was a bachelor of about forty-six summers, and was smitten with the charms of “sweet sixteen.” The record says that Dorcas Wooden was born February 10, 1661, making her age just five days short of seventeen years. But there is nothing to show that she did not make a loving wife and a good mother. Fortunately, we have been able to find records of the family, from which the following list of children has been compiled:

1. Mary, Salem, ch. record bpd. Sept. 3, 1689.
2. Peter, Salem, ch. record bpd. Aug. 18, 1691.
3. Tabitha, Wenham, 1693.
4. Anthony, 1695.
5. There is said to have been one born about 1697 that died in infancy.
6. John, Rochester, Mar. 18, 1699.
7. Hannah, “ Nov. 30, 1700.
8. Rosanna, “ Nov. 23, 1702.
9. Ithamer, “ Nov. 20, 1704.
10. Joshua, “ July 23, 1706.
11. Frances, “ July 20, 1708.
12. Jane, “ Mar. 29, 1710.

There was a large family of the Woodens in the country around Cape Ann. The name was spelled in many ways, Wooden, Wodin, Waddin, and even Warden.

How much of a French accent Anthony may have still retained, or what employment he may have followed during the twenty years that he lived in Essex county, we do not know. After this he worked in iron, and he may have followed this here. I have

thought that his people in France may have been connected with the iron industry, to which he would thus be naturally drawn.

After peace had been made with the Indians in 1678, if not before, the other two proprietors of the Maine settlement returned, and claimed their property. Rev. Robert Gutch was known as "the preacher to the fishermen," but in the course of his ministrations he was drowned while crossing a river in 1679. What became of Thomas Stevens I do not know.

As to Anthony, although all that he had was invested in that claim, — and he must have been poor, for we find no evidence that he owned any real estate during these twenty years, — his sense of honor would not permit him to take possession, because, as he said, those who risked their lives, and the widows and children of those who died in defense, were more worthy of it than himself. Let us hope that the same high sense of honor remains with the family to this day.



## CHAPTER IX. BUSINESS.

So far Anthony seems to have made little impression on the business world. Some time between 1695 and 1698 he removed to Rochester, a somewhat out-of-the-way place in the extreme southern part of Massachusetts, a few miles inland from Buzzards Bay. Here he seems to have entered more fully into the business activities of the community. One tradition says he built iron works. There is no record of this in his name, but this quaint town record is made:

“Feb. 6th 1699–1700. Libertie was given to any of the proprietors to sett up a mill for iron works — if more than eight purchasers do appear to carry on and build sd mill,” but it was to be in “some suitable place where it may be secure from hurting people by cutting choyse timber.”

No definite record is given as to any mill being “sett up,” but at an early date there was an iron mill at Leonards Point (or Sippican Mills). There was also a blast furnace in early operation at Stillwater Mills, North Rochester. Much attention is given to this iron business in the local histories. It continued until about 1821. The principal source from which the ore was taken was the beds of the lakes and streams, Lake Quitticus affording the largest supply. It was taken from the bottom of the lake with tongs, and the getting of it was considered dangerous work. This ore was reduced in blast furnaces. After a while a trip-hammer was put up, which hammered it into “blooms.” These were taken to another mill, where they were rolled into bars and then cut into slits, to be hammered into nails.

We find this interesting bit of information, dated October 13, 1705: "Seven Christian men of Rochester in addition to Mr. Arnold [the preacher], signed the covenant, the signers being, Samuel Arnold, Abraham Holmes, Samuel Hammond, Isaac Holmes, Jacob Bumpus, John Benson, Thomas Dexter, *Anthony Coombs*." At the death of the minister, Arnold, in 1709, the membership numbered thirty-five and the name of Anthony Coombs is among them. Not many years before (1683-1687) one Samuel Shiverick, a Huguenot who had fled from Catholic persecution, had been their pastor. I wonder whether he and Anthony were not acquainted, and whether he was not the cause of the removal to Rochester. Possibly he reported the existence of iron ore to his friend, Anthony Coombs.

In 1704 the town gave a piece of land "near Peter Blackmore's mill" to Anthony Coombs on condition "that he do the work of a smith among us for seven years." In the same year a road was laid out which is described as follows: "Towards the mill [that is the Sippican mill dam] touching John White's land, and an old bridge, Anthony Coombs' land, and so to Kennel Winston's land."

Anthony probably had four children when he came to Rochester, and the oldest could not have been more than nine or ten years of age. One other died about the time of the removal. Here this large family of children grew up, in all probability with but limited opportunities for schooling. What a romping lot they must have been, — that is, if romping was allowed in that family. For in those early days the austere New Englander had the idea that child nature should be repressed. To be "all hoity-toity" was to be naughty.

Children were "to be seen, not heard." Even down to the time of my grandfather much of this austerity remained. One of my aunts told me that her father never spoke to one of his children with any degree of familiarity, but always in a tone of command. She had noted the evident comradeship which existed between myself and my two boys. This illustrates the great change that has come in the treatment of children since Christian people began studying child nature. However, let us believe that that big family of eleven children found plenty of chances to romp to their hearts' content in the big woods all around them.

There was one subject in the family councils on which they were divided. They had heard of the purchase of Indian lands in Maine. They had heard of the beautiful New Meadows River, of the fertile lands, the good fishing and hunting, and of the thriving settlement which had been started. About the time that the older sons were coming to manhood, the Indians had been so far subdued that settlements in Maine had become safe, and the tide of immigration had set that way. Land-hunger, the desire to own a home, seems natural to man. There was a longing on the part of the young folks to go back and assert their claim. But the father had long since dismissed any such thought from his mind, for the reasons before given, and would not consent. Tradition says that he was believed to have destroyed his deed to prevent them from claiming the land. No record of it has ever been found. The Pejepscot Papers indicate that the "Alister" claim was taken into consideration in the final settlement of titles, but not allowed, by the Council at Boston which made the final settlement in 1742.

When the old folks died is not known. They were alive in 1722; she probably lived much longer. I have fixed in my mind the probable date of his death as about 1728, which would make him about eighty-six years old, his youngest child being then about eighteen and his oldest thirty-nine. Evidently this Rochester neighborhood was not liked by the young people, for soon after the supposed date of the father's death most of them turned their faces northward and back to the New Meadows country. Peter, the eldest, was back and settled on the original purchase on New Meadows River in 1730, being then about thirty-nine years old. Anthony followed soon after, and purchased the lot adjoining that of his brother when thirty-six years old. John came about 1739 and bought lower down, but afterwards sold and moved to Great Island, Harpswell township. Joshua worked gradually northward and finally settled at Foster's Point, on the opposite side of the river. None of them, however, could get a title to the land under the old Indian deed. Rochester seemed to have no attractions for the family, and few of the male descendants ever returned to the place.

We have now traced this ancestor of a large family of descendants through about seventeen years of childhood in France, fifteen years of residence in Maine, twenty years in the northeast part of Massachusetts, and thirty-three years in Rochester. In doing so we have chosen to tell it in the form of a story. This has been carefully and conscientiously done, and only after years of investigation, much correspondence, and examination of records in the public libraries of Cincinnati and Boston. We have tried to make it true in every statement. We wish also to acknowledge the

helpfulness of friends, among whom we mention Rev. C. N. Sinnett, Fayette, Iowa, Mrs. Alice Coombs Getchell, Dorchester, Mass., Mrs. Carrie W. Holmes, Middleboro, Mass., and Mr. George A. Coombs, Bath, Me., Mrs. Alonzo Purinton, West Bowdoin, Me., Mrs. Jennie Nichols, Round Pond, Me., Mr. Charles S. Coombs, South Thomaston, Me., Mr. Jacob F. Coombs, Portland, Me., Mr. George Asa Coombs, South Londonderry, Vt., Dr. George A. Coombs, Augusta, Me. We have also taken pains to learn contemporary history, and the manners and lives of people of those days, so that we might picture to you the life of our ancestor as he really was, and not as you probably imagine him to have been. His was the life, not of a brilliant hero, but of a useful citizen, a man of industrious, progressive habits, sterling honesty, and uncorruptible integrity, forward in the establishment of churches and every good work, one of a class of men wanted in every good community. Handicapped as he was by his exile and a strange language, as well as by the loss of all his means by an investment where he lost, his development was slow. His was a strange, hard life, away from home, friends, and native land.

Ours was a worthy ancestor. Let us cherish his memory and perpetuate the rugged virtues by which he was known.

## CHAPTER X. LIFE AT ROCHESTER.

What kind of life did this big family live at Rochester? What educational, religious, and social privileges did they enjoy? Fortunately local history has given us much that is interesting.

Wasn't that a big family? Just think of it! When they all sat down to dinner there were *thirteen* of them, including father and mother. No bad luck in that "13." Only one death in the family, and that an infant! Away with superstition! It has no rightful place in any intelligent family.

On coming to Rochester there were four living children: Mary, Peter, Tabitha, and Anthony, — the first born in 1689, the last in 1695. Seven more were born at Rochester: John, Hannah, Rosanna, Ithamer, Joshua, Frances, and Jane, — the first of these in 1699, and the last in 1710.

The first movement for public schools was made in 1704, when the town (we in the West would say township) voted to put £10 (about \$33) in the hands of Pastor Arnold to hire some one to teach. At this time Mary, the oldest child, was fifteen years old. She was married four years later. The next year, 1705, the selectmen were empowered to "engage some able person to teach children and youth to Read and Right." He was to be paid two shillings a week, — about 33 cents. In addition to this he was to get his "dyett washing and lodging." February, 1712, John Myers was engaged "to sarve in the office of Skoolmaster." He taught several years and probably taught nearly all of Anthony's children. His pay was "12-16 Pounds and Dyett." The



A RECENT VIEW IN NORTH ROCHESTER, MASS., SHOWING "THE OLD  
COOMBS TAVERN" ON THE RIGHT.





school was taught twelve months in the year, and its location was changed about from place to place in the township.

In 1717 something better was called for, and Samuel Prince was employed to provide a grammar school, and an offer was made to William Griffeth to teach a quarter of a year. I presume this was called the "High school." For a considerable number of years Benjamin De La Nocy (Delano) was the town's schoolmaster. He must have been very popular, for his salary at one time reached "30 pounds and Dyett." I presume that the schoolmasters got their "Dyett" by "boarding around." The teaching was confined to the three "Rs," "Readin', 'Ritin', and 'Rithmetic." Spelling schools were held at night, and on Saturday afternoons the young people were called together to say the Catechism. Such were the school privileges and the teachers of this growing family.

What were the religious privileges? The first meeting-house was built in 1699. It was within the limits of the town's burying ground, which was laid out at the same time, and the specifications, as given in the town records, are as follows: it was to be "24 by 26 Ft. and 10 ft. between Joints, with a gable on each side." It was to have "a pulpit and flours & girts for three gallerys, with three seats a pew." A rate of £60 was voted to defray its cost, though it was afterwards voted to pay for it "by a freewill offering if that will amount to 50 pounds." The building committee consisted of Samuel Prince, Peter Blackmer (who was also the builder), and Mark Haskel, — at whose house the plans were drawn. Mr. Haskel died before the completion of the house, and his widow, Mary Haskel, was

employed to sweep the meeting-house "once in 15 days or as often as shall be occasion for sweeping of it to keep it Deasent."

Things soon began to look more hopeful for Pastor Arnold, for on October 13, 1703, he made this entry in the old church book: "It hath pleased our Gracious Lord to shine in the dark corner of this wilderness, and visit this dark spot of ground with the dayspring from on high through his tender mercy to settle a church according to the order of the gospel."

Some years later Mr. Arnold died and was succeeded by Rev. Timothy Ruggles, a Harvard graduate, who was called to be the town's minister. This place he filled for fifty-eight years. On his tombstone his life work is recorded in these words:

In memory of ye Rev<sup>d</sup> Timothy Ruggles, pastor of ye Ch. in Rochester, who was an able Divine and a faithful Minister. Having a peculiar talent for composing Differences and healing Divisions in churches, he was much imployed in Ecclesiastical Councils and having spent his Days and his strength in the work of his Lord and Master finished his Course with Joy and departed this Life Oct. ye 26. 1768 in the 84th year of his age and the 58th of his Ministry.

These were the men who ministered religiously to this family.

In 1714 the church needed to be enlarged, and in 1717 a new one was built. It was to be "40 Ft. by 35 Ft. and 20 Ft. between Joints." The pews were to be "all of a haith, and built workmanlike." The comfort of the old people was provided for when it was ordered that three seats be built "Nye the pulpit for ancient persons to sett in." Neither of these churches had a

chimney, or any provision for heating except by foot-stoves. And the sermons in those days were long!

Like all New England towns, Rochester was one religious organization and all householders were taxed for the support of the Church. By vote of the town in 1709 "professed Quakers" began to be excused from the payment of ministry dues, and in the latter part of the 18th century many Baptists claimed and received the same exemption.

The soil around Rochester seems to have been rather poor. It must have been stony, for to this day miles of stone fence are still standing. Before the building of the meeting-house, a large rock was used as a pulpit, and it is still known as "Minister's rock."

From the samples that I have given from the public records, you will see that even the public officers of that day were unusually old-fashioned and unlearned. Aside from the iron industry, there seems to have been little to incite the people to effort. Pasturage on the range was an important source of income, and a town record was made of the "distinguishing marks of the Creatures," such as a "crop or half-crop on the neare eare," or "slits cut slantwise." By these each owner was enabled to identify his stock.

The poverty of the people is shown by the fact that as late as the middle of the 18th century, after Anthony Coombs had been dead twenty years or more, and all of his sons except one had left the place, it was said that there was not a wagon of any kind in the town. There were ox-carts and horse-carts and two old riding chairs. Such a thing as a chaise was never heard of. The first that came through Rochester excited as much interest as a balloon would have done. It was said that no

person could tell what it was, so the people called it a "calash." Three ministers had watches, but there was no clock. "An umbrella or a parasol would have been a wonderment."

The local history says, "As for the bill of fare at the table, they generally had a boiled dish, the first course a bowl of broth, called porridge, generally with some beans in it and Summer Savory sprinkled in it. Then Indian pudding with sauce, then beef, pork, and round turnips and a few small potatoes." Potatoes were small and scarce. Yet with good fishing in the lakes and streams and the nearby bay, an occasional wild turkey, a roast of bear meat, or a liberal mess of fried squirrel, cooked in the big brick Dutch oven in the back yard, and the open fire roaster, you need not tell me that "mother" did not get up many a savory and toothsome dish for that big gang of youngsters.

As for the present inhabitants, with their modern improvements, fine hotels, and summer boarders, they no doubt are finding life quite enjoyable, and have shown their enterprise by collecting and publishing a very interesting lot of records of "Ye olden time."

But the Coombs's are said to be "inclined to go out and better their condition." Small wonder that soon after, if not before, the death of the old folks, they nearly all left Rochester.

## PART II.

### CHAPTER I. AT NEW MEADOWS.

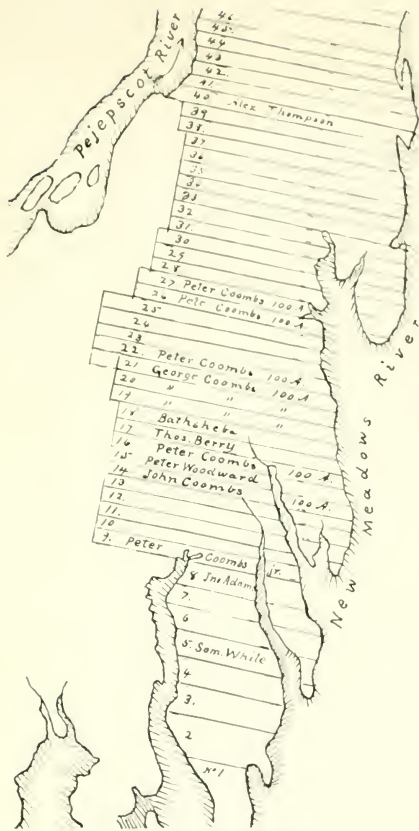
Soon after the death of Anthony the headquarters of the family rapidly changed from Rochester to New Meadows. Peter was the first to come. What time he left Rochester we do not know, but he left Newburyport in 1730, with a family of four sons and probably several daughters. That natural land-hunger impelled him, and he went to the New Meadows country, settled on the northern part of the land which his father had once purchased from the Indians, near Howard's Point. His father was not here to oppose him. He would settle on this land and press his claim for all that it was worth. Was he not now in his fortieth year, with a family growing up around him, and with no land to cultivate? Surely, in this big "New World" there should have been land enough for all. But it was not so. The majority of the people were poor and landless. Were not the rich, as they still are, taking advantage of the misfortunes of the poor to monopolize the land? Money gives power, but power is not always right. The poor man's calamity is often the rich man's opportunity, and so it proved in this case. In 1675 the Indian war broke out, and nearly all the settlers in that region were driven out and impoverished. Eight years later nearly all the land in Harpswell township, and much in Brunswick, was owned by one man, a rich merchant of Boston named Wharton. At his death, about 1714, this land was sold to the Pejepscot Company, and soon after divided among the eight members of the company. Litigation followed, and it was not until 1742 that the

question of titles to this New Meadows land was finally settled. Did the poor man get justice, or "law"? When God settled his chosen people in a promised land, he recognized this land-hunger, and provided for it by giving to each family a landed inheritance which could not be permanently alienated. Was not this a wise recognition of a human need?

About the time of the coming of Peter this land was divided by the Pejepscot Company into long, narrow strips, running back from the river, containing about 100 acres each. How well Peter satisfied this land-hunger is shown by a map of these lands, about eleven years later, which shows that he owned four of them, his son George three, and his next son, Peter, Jr., one; in all about 900 acres. In addition to this, at least one each was owned by Anthony and John. So the sons and grandsons of Anthony soon became owners of about one half of the original purchase. Their claim under the father's purchase was, however, not allowed, and what they had to pay for a part of it is shown by the following, copied from the York records:

Whereas the Proprietors of the Township of Brunswick at their meeting held at Boston on Wednesday the second day of February 1742-3 duly warned according to law did proceed to a division of that part of Brunswick commonly called New Meadows and lot number 26 in possession of Peter Coombs junr. did fall to the property and share of Henry Gibbs and is accordingly entered to said Henry Gibbs his heirs and assigns forever as his own proper right. . . . Now know ye that I the said Henry Gibbs for and in consideration of the full and just sum of thirty pounds paid by Peter Coombs of said Brunswick, . . . by deed dated August 18. 1743, one hundred acres of land according to the plan of said Township.

Book 24, Folio 151.



MAP OF NEW MEADOWS LANDS, AS LAID OUT BY THE PEJEPSCOT COMPANY; MADE ABOUT 1741, SHOWING HOW THE SONS OF ANCESTOR ANTHONY SETTLED ON, AND BECAME POSSESSORS OF, MUCH OF THE ORIGINAL TRACT. IN ADDITION TO THOSE SHOWN ON THE MAP, ANOTHER BROTHER, ANTHONY, BOUGHT ONE LOT NEXT TO HIS BROTHER PETER, BESIDE OTHER TRACTS.

Joshua, who came later, settled on the east side of the river (Copied from Wheeler's History of Brunswick.)





Jacob Eaton, of a place called Topsham, in the Province of Mass. conveyed to Anthony Coombs of Falmouth, by deed dated July 14. 1740, one hundred acres of land in the township of Brunswick on Stevens River, joining to land now in possession of Peter Combs. consideration thirty two pounds.

Book 24, Folio 279.

Belcher Noyes of Boston, Phisician and one of the proprietors of the township of Brunswick, conveyed to Peter Comes of Brunswick, by deed dated Dec. 3. 1746, lot number 22 in the division of the township of Brunswick, containing one hundred acres more or less, situated on Stevens river. Consideration thirty pounds Old Tenor paid in cordwood vizt fourteen cords by Peter Comes of Brunswick.

Book 22, Folio 150.

Hannah Fayerweather widow and Executor of Thomas Fayerweather late of Boston, conveyed to Peter Comes of Brunswick, by deed dated May 13. 1747, lot number 27, of what was commonly known as the "Pejepscot" lands in Brunswick, one hundred acres more or less and adjoining the land of said Peter. Consideration forty pounds.

Book 27, Folio 151.

Isaac Royall of Charlestown, Mass. conveyed to Peter Coombs Junr. of Brunswick, by deed dated Nov. 22. 1749, lot number 9, of the lands of the township of Brunswick, containing 100 acres more or less, on Steven's river. Consideration one hundred and sixty pounds.

Book 28, Folio 276.

In 1744 Peter was appointed by the court on a "Committee of protest," but the nature of that protest I do not know. It probably had something to do with land titles.

Some traditions give Anthony as the oldest son of Anthony, Sr., but this is evidently a mistake. Although, in the record of Peter's baptism at Salem in 1691, he is called "Peter son of Mihel and Dorcas Cooms," no one who looks over the completed list of births, and sees how nicely he fits in, can doubt that he belongs there, nor doubt that he is the son of Anthony and Dorcas. Why "Mihel" instead of Anthony, can only be accounted for by the well-known fact that recording clerks in those days were frequently not only very ignorant, but careless also. They have many such sins to account for. Peter was the oldest brother and the pioneer in the return to New Meadows. In later years he moved to the Freeman Gross place, near Harding station, where he died in 1768, in his seventy-seventh year.

The next to follow him were Anthony, Jr., and sister Abigail. Anthony must have left Rochester at least six or eight years before his father died, for the record says that on October 21, 1722, he was married to Marsah (Mercy) Hodgkins, by the Rev. John White. His wife and Peter's wife, Joanna, were said to be sisters, and daughters of the man with whom they were engaged in business. The birth of one daughter, Hannah, in 1727 is recorded at Gloucester, leaving an interval of five years after marriage. Anthony, Sylvanus, Dorcas, Mercy, and John are recorded at Falmouth (now Portland), 1729-1738. Probably soon after 1738 he left Falmouth and purchased land adjoining that of Peter on New Meadows River, but the number of the lot is not known. There were conveyances to him of land on New Meadows in 1740, 1745, 1747. Of his children, Mercy married Samuel Williams of Brunswick

September 14, 1754, Dorcas married Abel Eton of West Bath, and Sylvanus married Mercy Walker.

But this sister Abigail, who was she? Her husband was Thomas Berry. There is no Abigail recorded among the children of ancestor Anthony, and the list seems to be complete. Yet she is mentioned in so many traditions that she can not be ignored. This is also corroborated by the tradition that George, son of Peter, married Abigail Berry, his cousin. So I am forced to account for Abigail in some way. You will note that the older children came to New Meadows first, — except Mary, who married at Rochester and removed to Beverly. The next daughter was Tabitha, baptized at Wenham, 1693. She was older than Anthony and younger than Peter. How like those careless clerks to get it down as Tabitha instead of Abigail! Or the family, or the girl herself, might have become dissatisfied and changed the name, and, the family having moved to Rochester, the record was never corrected. We have no way to prove this, but I strongly suspect that Tabitha became Abigail. We find no record of Tabitha, though we find record of the marriages of all except the youngest, Jane. I think "Tabitha" and Abigail were one. She is said to have come with her husband, Thomas Berry, and a family. On the map made about 1741, Thomas Berry was put down as the owner of lot No. 17, adjoining No. 16, belonging to her brother Peter.

John was the next. On the same map he is named as owner of lot No. 14. He is said to have come about 1740. This is probably when he bought the land, and his stay was only temporary, as his children were recorded in Rochester up to 1745. That the family came is shown by the marriage records of his children in

Harpswell. John sold his lot, No. 14, and moved to what was then called Great Island, Harpswell, lying south of Brunswick. Here he lived, and his descendants took quite an active part in the development of the country, and fought in the Revolutionary War. I have not been able to learn when he died.

The last to come was Joshua, who came in 1751, and settled on the opposite side of New Meadows River, near Foster's Point. He is said to have bought land. He was married at Rochester to Elizabeth Pratt, and one child was born there February 23, 1731. From Rochester he removed to Newburyport, thence to Portland, and from there to New Meadows.

What occupation had these pioneers? Of course the first thing was to build themselves houses, clear land, and grow crops on which to subsist. There was a good growth of timber already on this land, and as the grain grown must be ground for bread, Peter and Anthony together found business in the building and running of mills. Joshua was by trade a shoemaker, but it is said that he and his brother John likewise became builders of mills. These mills were no doubt of the kind so common before steam and gasoline power took their places. They were run by water-power, and were located along the small streams. If the fall was sufficient, an "overshot" wheel was constructed, some 12 or 16 feet in diameter. To the top of this the water from the millrace was conducted. The force of the water struck the "buckets" at the top, which filled and passed down, the weight of the water furnishing the main power. At the bottom they emptied themselves into the "tailrace" and came up empty on the other side, to be again filled when they reached the

top. Hence the adage: "The mill will never grind with the water that has passed." The "undershot" wheel was of less diameter and was driven by the force of the water striking the boards of the wheel at the bottom and passing under. The shaft of these wheels was hewn out of a solid log and turned on iron gudgeons driven into the ends. Wooden cog wheels and belts transmitted the power. The sawmills had a heavy sash or frame sliding up and down between two posts. This carried a heavy, straight saw, which made its cut on the downward stroke. They usually had, in addition to the saw, "burrhs" for grinding grain. I remember being taken to such a mill by my father when I was a small boy, and when the "gate" was raised, the swish of the water, the groaning of the big water-wheel, the clatter of cogs, and the rumbling of the "burrhs" so frightened me that I made a sudden start for the door.

With these mills lumber was sawed for the building of houses and barns, boats and ships; thus beginning that industry which afterward became so profitable, — the building of wooden ships and the carrying of this lumber to other markets. This industry once made Bath a rich and prosperous city. But now the day of wooden ships has passed, and iron vessels have taken their place. Bath, though building some iron ships, has never recovered its former glory.

## CHAPTER II. INCREASE.

I have tried to picture to you the life of the sons of Anthony, who were all gone before the end of the 18th century. The four sons who settled around New Meadows had at least sixteen sons to bear the name, to say nothing of the daughters and the sister, who were under the disadvantage of having to give up their own and their children's names and are not so easily traced. The Coombs's were a prolific set in those days and they increased rapidly. What was the life of the next two or three generations? Not so much of a venture as with the earlier pioneers! Population was fast increasing, and business, with commercial and social intercourse with other people, gave more variety to life. Schools and churches were becoming more accessible to the people. Yet it was a hard life. The majority of the people were poor. Those who had money invested it in ships and commerce, which were very profitable. While this afforded some relief to the common people by giving them a market for their products, much of the land was rocky or sandy, and the winters were severe, with deep snows and late springs. Yet these hardships developed a hardy, industrious, and frugal race, and the "Yankee tricks" by which this thoughtful people overcame their difficulties, and the shrewd economies by which they supplemented their scanty incomes, became proverbial.

The husband sowed and gathered the crops, and provided the "back-logs" and the cord-wood for the roaring fires in the huge fireplace. The housewife was the provider inside the house. The art of canning fruit

and vegetables was then unknown. Huge yellow pumpkins were hardly concealed in the warm corners, the "crook-necks" hung on the wall, strings of fruit or vegetables were drying by the heat of the fireplace, or out of doors in the summer time. Big pots of pumpkin were well cooked and then spread in thin layers on tin plates or boards to dry into hard cakes, for winter use. But the genuine Yankee pie was made from the undried pumpkin, was tender and delicious, and if up to "standard" should touch your nose when you bit into it. The housewife was also the family doctor, and from the joists overhead hung bunches of boneset for colds, catnip for the babies, pennyroyal and mullein leaves, sarsaparilla root and wild-cherry bark for spring blood purifiers.

There were no sewing machines, nor "sweat shops" where ready-to-wear clothing was made, and the busy housewife had to find time to tramp back and forth to the hum of the spinning-wheel, as the rolls of cotton or "sheep's wool" were drawn out into smooth yarns out of which were knit the warm woolen socks, or which, under the steady beating of the hand-loom, was made into "linsey" or "jeans" for clothing — strong and serviceable, but not the "soft raiment" of kings' palaces. The first carpet known there was made in Topsham in 1811. It was made of squares of cloth sewed together, on each of which was a leaf or other figure, and it was considered a great curiosity.

Out of doors the men cut the timber, sawed lumber, and built ships, in which they carried lumber, cordwood, tan-bark, and other products to Boston and other cities, and even to foreign countries. Lumber, which could be bought in Maine for \$8 per thousand feet,



brought \$60 in the West Indies, a handsome profit of \$52 per thousand feet. The handicap of the everlasting rocks, which cover a large part of the surface of the ground, and the severity of the winters, which, by the middle of January, 1912, had frozen the ice on New Meadows River 18 inches thick, were turned into blessings by the Yankee. He quarried the stone in summer and shipped it to the cities. He built the largest ice-houses in the world, which he filled in winter, and shipped ice not only to American cities, but to Europe. But the timber is disappearing, Portland cement and the artificial ice-plant are making inroads on his business, and those who did not go West are now turning their attention to the summer boarder and resort on the coast, while in the interior they are giving their attention to dairying and potato raising.

Ship-building once made Bath famous and rich. On New Meadows River many ships were built. About in the middle of the "Alester Coombs" tract is a little, rounded promontory which, until some forty or fifty years ago, was known as the Given shipyard. Here about one ship a year was built for many years. Mr. George A. Coombs of Bath informed me that his grandfather had worked in this shipyard at a wage of \$30 per year and board, working from sunrise until the stars appeared. What would some of our labor-union men think of that? I have in my possession a copy of the certificate of registry of "The Harpswell of Bath," a square-sterned brig, with one deck, two masts, length 88 feet 7 inches, breadth 24 feet, measuring 182 tons. Anthony Coombs, Jr., master carpenter, and Anthony Coombs, Daniel Curtis, Levi Tatman, Robert Ashford of Harpswell, and J. Richardson of Bath, owners.



The Coombs family did their part in the War of the Revolution. When I looked over the roster, I found so many of the name that I gave up the idea of any special mention, except in a few instances which will be mentioned elsewhere. They were patriotic, and lovers of liberty. Religiously, they were loyal to Christianity and the Church. A petition presented in 1753, asking the establishment of a new parish, was signed by Joshua Coombs and forty-five others, and reads as follows:

That they labor under the greatest difficulties in attending Public Worship of God at George Town, in that they not only live remote from thence but are obliged to cross Winnegance River at least three quarters of a mile, where the tide is very rapid and the ice in cold seasons in very large quantities by means wherof the Ancient People, Women and Children can scarce ever Attend the Worship of God, so necessary to their Welfare.

In 1783 was the first preaching by Baptists in that vicinity, by Elders Case, Potter, and Lord, but it is not known that they made any converts. In 1789 or 1790 Samuel Woodward and others formed themselves into a Baptist Society and refused to pay "rates" (church taxes) to the first parish. The independence of the Baptist Churches, and their entire repudiation of State control, appealed strongly to the independent Coombs spirit, and when, on June 20, 1794, "The Baptist Religious Society, in Brunswick, Harpswell and Bath," was formed, the following, among others, were enrolled as members:

Sylvanus Coombs, Nathan Coombs, Joseph Saint Coombs, George Coombs, and George Coombs, Jr.

And on March 16 were added:

Thomas Coombs, Stephen Coombs, Jr.

In 1793 a Free-Will Baptist Church was organized, and among the members were:

John Coombs, Hannah Coombs, and Margaret Coombs.

From this time on the Baptist faith has prevailed among most of the Coombs descendants who are church members.

The traditions of these people, in their efforts to account for the origin of the family, vary much. In addition to many things common to others I find the following:

Dr. George Appleby Coombs of Augusta writes:

I have always understood that my ancestors came from Scotland. The original immigrant from whom I descended, settled on a farm in Brunswick. At that time the farm consisted of 1000 acres.

This was "Alister." The family of Doctor Coombs still own 100 acres of this same land, which has never passed out of their possession.

Another tradition comes from Mrs. Emma Jane Fossett Nichols, whose mother was a Coombs, and is as follows:

I have always been told that three brothers came from France; Sylvanus, who came to Bristol, Anthony went east, and Francis settled in Bath. My mother told me that when she was a little girl she remembered the brother from Bath coming here to make his last visit to her grandfather, Sylvanus, and before he left in the early morning they were all called to prayers, and it was a sad parting for the two men. This Sylvanus was called "King Coombs," but for what reason I do not know. In the Revolutionary War he was one to help defend the fort at Pemaquid.

Anthony<sup>a</sup> had a son Sylvanus and a son Anthony (who might have been the one who "went east" and was a town officer in Islesboro in 1789). I find no other record of Francis, but there is room for him in the family of this same Anthony.

### CHAPTER III. THE PENOBSCOT GROUP.

About three years before the War of the Revolution, Joseph Coombs, then a young man of twenty-one, went from the New Meadows country to what is now South Thomaston, at the mouth of the Penobscot River, which comes down from the north some sixty or seventy miles east of the Kennebec. He was the son of Deacon George Coombs, the son of Peter. He brought nothing but his ax and a good share of ambition, industry, and pluck. He began working for a Mr. Snow, but being a good organizer and a man of remarkable energy, he soon went into the manufacture of lime and salt, built a sawmill, and began ship-building. He became not only the pioneer of a large Coombs settlement, but a leading man in the community. In a few years he had accumulated considerable property and had opened up a farm of over 300 acres. He is generally known as Lieutenant Joseph, and is credited with having been a soldier in the Revolutionary War, but his military title seems to have been acquired as an officer of the militia after the close of the war. However, he may have done some fighting before that, as at one time his lumber was carried off by the British.

About three years after his coming he married Miss Elizabeth Gamble, the courtship having been conducted in the same energetic manner as was his business. She lived at some distance from his place, and in making his visits he had to cross the George River, where a canoe was kept for the use of travelers. Sometimes this would be tied up on the opposite shore, and in such case the only thing he could do was to disrobe, swim

across the river, paddle back, make his toilet, and continue his journey. He won, of course.

Miss Gamble proved to be a most estimable woman. She was of Scotch-Irish ancestry, and a daughter of one of the survivors of the shipload of two hundred immigrants who were wrecked on Mt. Desert Island — most of whom perished from starvation and exposure.

A large part of this group of the Coombs family around Penobscot Bay are glad to claim Lieutenant Joseph as their ancestor, and cherish his memory. Many of them became sailors and sea-captains, merchants, and office-holders. Now they have scattered over the surrounding country and emigrated to other parts. I find them in Nebraska, Michigan, Indiana, and Georgia, while I have found only one bearing the Coombs name in Thomaston, and he is a bachelor.

The Mr. Snow for whom Lieutenant Joseph worked, and with whom he was much of the time associated in business, was not only an active business man, but he was pastor of the Baptist Church in South Thomaston. In 1792 Lieutenant Joseph pledged “9 pounds, lawful money” towards building a meeting-house for this organization. Later — 1824 — at the suggestion of Asa Coombs, Esq., the citizens turned out, hauled stone, and built a fence around the graveyard belonging to this church.

The schooner “Betsy and Jennie” was built at Thomaston, and the chief owners were Coombs and Snow. The “Asa,” 80 tons, was built in 1807, Capt. A. G. Coombs. In 1817 “The Thomas” was built, — chief owners, G. Coombs and J. Spaulding. Many other such incidents could be mentioned to show the

activities of the Coombs's at this place, Islesboro, Rockland, Vinalhaven, and other points in this vicinity.

Capt. George Prince, whose mother was Isabella Coombs, made an effort to learn the early history of the Coombs family, and left a record of his work, from which I copy the following extract:

Lient. Peter Coombs, with his two brothers Anthony and John, with his sister Abigail Berry, and her husband Thomas Berry, were in 1730 settled on a tract of land 2500 acres or more, at New Meadows, which in 1675 was in possession of Allester Coombs, he having purchased it of "Robin Hood." The settlers here in 1675 or 1689 were driven off by the Indians. I have not been able to trace Allester Coombs since. He may have been killed by the Indians. When peace was restored the above named Peter Coombs, brothers and sister with their families were occupying the same lot of land. It is therefore quite reasonable to suppose that they were the children or grandchildren of Allester Coombs, supposed to be one of the Scotch prisoners of war . . . transported to America in the ship "Sarah and John," in the year 1651. All of whom were restored to liberty on reaching the shores of America.

So far as Captain Prince had knowledge, his account was correct, but, being without the facts in regard to this "Allester," he goes off into a lot of conjectures as to how one of the unreadable names of some one of those prisoners, whose given name was Alester, might have been Coombs; how "Allester" might have been "Allerton;" and gets mixed up with the family of John Coombs of Plymouth, and ends up with this statement:

We also know that Anthony Coombs married Dorcas Wooden in York Me. Sept. 5. 1688. He could well have been the son of the conjectural Allerton Coombs of New Meadows, if that

was his correct name, and Anthony and Dorcas Coombs could have been the parents of Peter, Anthony, John, and Abigail Berry, who were settled on this same land owned by Allerton Coombs in 1775.

Another account says:

Allerton or Allister Coombs was either killed by the Indians, or driven away in 1675 or 1689, and is never heard from after, but a Michael Coombs, who may have been a captured son, aged about 5 was ransomed June 19. 1689. Another supposed son was Anthony, who married Dorcas Wooden. This Michael, or Anthony may have been the father of Lieut. Peter, b. 1691, and Anthony, John and Abigail Berry, who after peace occupied their grandfather's land at New Meadows, about 1730-40. The Allister Coombs tract owned by the Pejepscot Co. was the land afterwards laid out by the Pejepscot Co. in lots numbering about 9 to 36. Thomas Berry and wife sold their land and moved across the river to what is still called Berry's Mills. The other three owners sold a part of their shares to Woodward, Snow, Jordan and others.

Verily, that assumed Scotch name made these people lots of trouble, but you will note that they both make "Alester" the ancestor of Peter, Anthony, John, and Abigail. Still another tradition, which I get through Charles S. Coombs of South Thomaston, gives a French origin, and is as follows:

Two brothers, French exiled Huguenots came to this country. One remained North, the other went South, and from these two brothers the Coombs's of America came.

Another very considerable part of this group has grown up from Anthony Coombs, who came from New Meadows to Islesboro, and was town officer there in 1789. He had a son Anthony, who also was town officer

there in 1792-1796. From here they spread to Vinalhaven, Belfast, Lincolnville, and other places, where many of this branch are living today. Many of them claim Anthony as one of their ancestors, but their accounts are conflicting, and I have not been able to trace them satisfactorily. I have not, however, the least doubt that they are descendants of the common ancestor, Anthony.



## CHAPTER IV. THE ROCHESTER GROUP.

As I pursue these investigations it becomes evident that Ithamer<sup>2</sup> never left Rochester. The last of his eleven children was born and registry made there in 1751. The tradition that he removed to Vermont is accounted for by the fact that another of the same name did go to Vermont later. Of his four sisters whose marriages are recorded at Rochester, only one, Rosanna Whitcomb, had children recorded there. The rest probably went with their husbands to other places. There is a probability that Jane, the youngest, did not live to maturity, as there is no further record of her. In confirmation of this it is said that Joshua considered himself the next to the youngest child of Anthony, having forgotten or ignored this one on account of her early death.

The home of the Coombs's was probably at North Rochester, as there were Coombs's living there up to some fifty or sixty years ago. Asa Coombs lived there until some time between 1850 and 1860, and on his death gave his farm to his nephew, Rev. Henry C. Coombs of Middleboro. The old "Coombs Tavern" is still standing.

Ithamer was the father of six sons and five daughters, and was the ancestor of a large family of the Coombs name, who are scattered all through that part of Massachusetts, engaged in business in New Bedford, Lakeville, Middleboro, Providence, R.I., and other places. Some of these claim descent from Anthony<sup>2</sup>, but every indication points to Ithamer as their ancestor. Simply cut out Anthony<sup>2</sup> from their tradition and you have a direct descent from Ithamer.

Ithamer's grandson, Simeon, was a Baptist minister who served churches all through that part of Massachusetts, beginning his work at Jamaica, Vt., and ending at Hyannis, Mass., where he died and was buried.

He had a family of thirteen children, two of whom were also Baptist ministers. Rev. Stephen Coombs was one of these (see sketch in another part of this book).

The youngest of the thirteen children was Rev. Henry C. Coombs, who had a notable record. His story is briefly told in the following clipping from the "Journal and Messenger," the leading Baptist paper of the Middle West, in its issue of May 12, 1904.

The above is a likeness of Rev. Henry C. Coombs, who has been longer in the Baptist ministry than any other person in America. He was ordained to the ministry in 1834 — seventy years ago. He enjoys reading; goes to church regularly; cuts his own wood; never used tobacco; always votes the Prohibition ticket. When he was ninety years old he preached regularly. He seems now to have reached the "dead line in the ministry," and we will not charge him with either indifference or laziness, if he does not preach.

After learning this much about him I was very anxious to have him write to me, and this is what I got:

MIDDLEBORO July 14th 1894.

FRIEND COOMBS,

My daughter is very anxious for me to write to you but I am so out of the habit of writing that I fear you will not be able to read it, and am still more fearful that you will not think it worth reading. For some time past have given my attention to gardening. We have had a very wet season, and weeds in abundance. Still there is a fair supply of fruits and vegetables. We have a variety of Cherries, Pears, Plums, Quinces, Grapes, Blackberries etc. Our dwelling house contains 7 tenements, but is

occupied by only five at the present time. I have to say Bless the Lord and forget not all his blessings.

Respectfully yours,

H. C. COOMBS.

And this was written in a very plain, readable handwriting in his ninety-fourth year. Surely, such a clean, righteous life, useful down to extreme old age, ought to be a source of inspiration to every living member of the family. He died in his ninety-fifth year (see sketch in another part of this book).

As an offshoot of this Rochester group, there is quite a settlement of Coombs's in Vermont which began by the immigration of Ithamer<sup>4</sup>, grandson of the first Ithamer and brother of Rev. Simeon, about the year 1804.

The Green Mountains form the backbone of Vermont, running north and south through the center of the state. On the east the Connecticut River divides it from New Hampshire. Between this river and the mountains, near the southern end, is the town of Jamaica, where he settled. The census of Vermont, taken in 1790, showed only four Coombs's who were heads of families then living in the state, viz.: Timothy Combs, who lived at Bennington in the southwest corner of the state; Medad Combs at Putney in the southeast corner. Then John Coombs and Jonathan Coombs who lived at Wardsboro, only about five miles south of Jamaica.

This little colony of Coombs's prospered and grew among the green Vermont hills, and spread to the surrounding towns of Londonderry, Hinsdale, Guilford, Windham, Grafton, Brattleboro, and Brookline, all in Windham county. They are a plain, good people, cherishing the family traditions and a family interest.

They were seemingly contented, for, beyond a few crossings of the river into New Hampshire, I learn of only one migration, and that to Western Iowa and Nebraska. I can not do better than to let him tell his own story in the following letter received from him:

SERGEANT BLUFF IOWA, 2/6/1913.

MR. WM. C. COOMBS,

Amelia O.

Dear Sir: I came to Iowa in 1855 from Londonderry Vt. Arrived in Iowa Mar. 5. Worked at Waverly through the summer, helping to build a flouring mill. Came here in the fall of 1855. (The town had just started in the spring.) Then went over into Nebraska, and took a preemption claim. Lived over there five years, then sold out and came back to Sergeants Bluff, and have lived here, and on a farm four miles from here, ever since. I came over here in 1860 and built a house for Mr. Luther Woodford on a farm One and one half miles from town, the first good frame house on a farm in the county. There is where I got my wife, — and a good one.

My father was 87 years old when he died. Mother was 92, most 93. . . . I am pretty smart for an old man. (Almost 81.) At present am living within one-half mile of Sergeants Bluff, have a house and out buildings and five acres of land set out to fruit trees and small fruit, and I manage to tend it all myself.

Hoping to hear from you soon,

Yours Truly,

MARCUS JETHRO COOMBS.

I found him through his contributions to a well-known horticultural paper. He also enjoys the distinction of being the only Coombs who has reported to me as being a member of that good body of Christian workers, the Methodist Episcopal Church. (Two others have been found later.)

But to return to the Rochester group. Their traditions, with one exception, hold to the French Huguenot ancestry, with Anthony as the original ancestor, but they are somewhat confused by the Plymouth family of "John Coombs, Gentleman," who was certainly English, and in no way connected with Anthony. He was not so prolific as was Anthony and his family, and left few, if any, male descendants to bear the name. The one exception that I have noted writes as follows: "I understand we trace back to one of three brothers, John, Richard and Anthony, and have been told they came from England." Somebody seems to have bunched up all the Coombs's for an ancestor.

## CHAPTER V. THE CINCINNATI GROUP.

It began with the migration of Andrew Coombs, Sr., son of Capt. Ebenezer Coombs, and is best told as related to me by his daughter, Abigail Coombs Conklin, who was about nine years old at the time of his removal. This is the story, as related to me, which I put in writing at the time, May 13, 1870, she being then in her 69th year:

About 1809 a Mr. Harris of Lewiston, Me., sent his son to see the western country—that is, Ohio. He came back, and reported so favorably that his father made up a party, and soon after emigrated.

The favorable report soon spread among the “Yankees.” Among others who heard it was Samuel Tibbetts, Jr., who was at that time embarrassed by a security debt, which was about to take his property, a farm which he then had in Maine. He concluded to go to Ohio, and, leaving his farm to his creditors, departed with his family and money enough to take him through.

The family of my father, Andrew Coombs, Sr. (stepbrother and cousin to Samuel Tibbetts, Jr.), was then living at— [probably Bowdoinham], while he was in a store at Brunswick, coming home occasionally in a sleigh to spend Sunday. On one of these occasions he spoke to mother of these folks who were going, or had gone, to Ohio. She replied, “Well, here is one that they will not get to go.” “Well,” said he, “Sam is going.” And on this an animated discussion sprang up, which was continued until very late. I listened until I was sent to bed in the trundle-bed, but kept listening, and was so excited that I could not go to sleep. After a good deal of talk mother finally consented to go. Soon after, father sold his place and moved up to Lisbon Corner, where Grandmother and Grandfather Tibbetts

lived in a house of which father owned half. We moved up in winter, during very cold weather, the family going in two sleighs and the goods on sleds.

Here we remained until the next September, when the house and lot, furniture, etc., were sold, selling off everything but clothing and teams. In the mean time they had mechanics to come and put up two spring wagons, working in the barn.

In September the party started for Ohio. The party consisted of my father and family, his mother and stepfather, Samuel Tibbetts, Esq. (Samuel Tibbetts, Jr., having preceded them), and others. They were five weeks in reaching Connellsville, Pa., on the Youghiogheny River, where an acquaintance by the name of Hinkley lived. Here lumber was plenty, and a boat was built. They remained here about four weeks.

One Sunday morning Mr. Hinkley's son came in and said the river was up and they must start right off. So the family was hurried on the boat and they started on the voyage. The boat was what was called an "ark," covered over, and the wagons were put on top. The river was full of shoals, on which the boat frequently stuck, and the young men of the place volunteered to go with them to the Monongahela River.

On reaching Pittsburg, father and Eli Higgins took the horses and went by land to Wheeling, Va. A large lumber raft and boat, loaded with shingles, overtook the boat, and being larger and heavier it floated faster than our "ark." We therefore asked permission to lash to it and be taken in tow. This they agreed to if some one of the women would do their cooking. Grandmother Tibbetts agreed to do this. At Wheeling we met father with the horses, and were very glad indeed to see him. The horses were placed on the raft, and thus they made the trip to Cincinnati, where we arrived in safety about the 15th of December, 1811.

Dr. Tibbetts [Samuel Tibbetts, Jr.] was then living on Water street. Father rented a house for the winter on Walnut street, between 5th and 6th, then on the outer edge of the town.

In the spring, father, Thomas Myrick, Cyrus Coffin, and others went to look for land. The first two bought in Clermont county. Father put up a log house, —that is, the walls and roof, —and went back to the city, expecting to return and finish before taking his family there, but mother insisted on going. So they left in March, camped on the Miami at night and came out the next day, arriving about 9 o'clock at night. The house had no floor, no doors, no windows, and the only entrance was by the hole left for the fireplace. [It was built mostly of Linn logs split in two pieces, and as they had to get some one to show them how to make a log house, it is probable that they did not make a very nice dwelling.] The trees had been cut away from around it so they would not fall on it. In this we lived while father finished up the house and cleared up the land, —pretty hard on the old folks, but enjoyed by the children. The climate was mild, and the children lived mostly out of doors.

One of the wagons was equipped with an ingenious contrivance for measuring and recording the distance traveled. I have in my possession a little home-made book with brown-paper cover, in which a record of the journey was kept, which I copy below, somewhat condensed:

A journal of a tour from the town of Lisbon, Maine.

Set out from Lisbon at 10 o'clock, Sept. 23. (1811), Monday and came on to Mr Whites in Freeport. Weather, fair Miles 13.

24th, to Stroudwater, Broads Tavern. W. fair Miles 23 1/2.

25th, (wed,) through Scarborough, Saco, Biddeford, Aurundell to Barnard's Tavern. w. rainy m. 25.

26th, T. Through Wells, Berwick, Summerworth to Maj. Tibbets private house fair m, 21 1/2.

27th. F. Through Dover, Durham, New market, to Mr. Perkin's private house

28th. S. Through Exeter, Kingston, Plasto, Haverhill, Bradford to Andover, to Mr Johnsons private house. Fair m. 26.



29th, S. Through Tewksbury, Billerica, to Mr. Hill's. rainy, m. 18.

30. M. Through Bedford, Concord, Sudbury, Marlboro, Northboro, to Mr. Balls

Oct. 1. Tues. Through Shrewsbury, Worcester, Liecester, (Dined with Mr. Hersley's, whose wife was Martha Brownell, sister-in-law to Capt. Devol at Marietta, and all his relations here are alive and well). Spencer, Brookfield, to Mr. Daniel's. m. 23.

Wed. 2. Through Weston, Palmer, Wilbraham, Springfield, to Russell's. Fair m. 25.

Th. 3. Crost the bridge over Connecticut R. into W. Springfield, through Suffield, Granby to Mr. Skinners. Fair & warm m. 20.

F. 4. Through Sunbury, Canton, to Bidwells. Fair & warm m. 15.

Sat. 5. Through New Hartford, Barkhamstead, Winchester, Coldbrook, Norfolk, Canaan to Pease's where we were much crowded. Fair and warm m. 23.

Sunday 6. Through Salisbury, Sharon to Mr. Maxim's Cloudy m. 16.

Monday, 7. Through A Washington Heights. Cloudy m. 20.

Tues. 8. Through Bakemantown and into the border of Fishkill, to Myer's Hotel, ill used. Fair m. 16.

Wed. 9. Through Fishkill, Crost the ferry and thence on to Morrell's inn in New Windsor. Fair m. 14.

Thursday 10. Through Chester, Bloominggrove, Hope, Warwick, to Gerachty's tavern. Fair m, 25.

Friday 11. Through Vernon, Hardyston, Newton to widow Sharp's tavern. Fair, very warm, m. 23 1/2

Sat. 12. Past Sussex C. House, Hardwick to Mr. Cook's, where we put up a little before night, on account of the rain. After we stopped we perceived that one of father's wheels was broken, and in the evening my white horse was not well and in the morning one of father's horses was lame. Fair, windy, rain. m 17 1/2.

Sunday 13. Through Hope, Oxford, Greenwich and put up at Piersing's tavern within 5 miles of Easton after driving something late. Fair m. 22 1/2.

Monday 14. Crost the bridge over the Delaware, through Easton to Butz's tavern and waited for father whom I left behind to get his wagon mended. Went on to Ritter's and put up some time after dark, after passing through Bethlehem.

[Here I condense by giving only the names of the towns, viz :]

Allentown, Greismers, Whitehalls Township, Kutztown, Reading, where they forded the Schuylkill R. Wormelsdorph, Myerstown, Lebanon, Millerstown, Polmanstown, Humbles-town, Harrisburgh, where we crossed the ferry and on 2 miles to Bowmans where we lodged in the barroom, much disturbed by the Negro and others. Through Carlisle to Hunter's, Very windy and cold. Through Shippensburg, Strausberg and over first mountain to Skinners. through Faunetsburg, two mountains to Birds tavern.

Thursday, 24. Over Sidling Hills, Crost the Junietta to Spark's tavern where six families of movers put up, besides a number of others. Much crowded, through Bloody Run, crossed The Dry ridge and Allegany mts. to Berlin and Connellsville.

Monday Oct. 28, Came on 1 1/2 miles up the Laurel hill, where my wagon broke and we lodged in our wagon. In the morning Ebenezer and I returned 1 and one half miles to a blacksmith and got my axletree mended while the rest of the family went on three miles up the hill to the next tavern. Traveled 8 miles over the Laurel hill, when the wagon axle again broke. Got it mended on the morning of Oct. 30., crossed Chestnut Ridge and to Connellsville on the Youghiogheny R. where the journey by wagon came to an end.

No of miles traveled	719 1/2.
Days	38.
Expenses	#52.50.

[Some of these are summed up as follows:]

Wh't Bran	6.0	Perriage	11.6
Cheese	9.6	Rum	3.
Beef & mutton	11.6	Bread and Rum	1.3
Bread	3.6		
	<hr/> 30.8		<hr/> 15.9

At Cincinnati a house was rented on Walnut street between Fifth and Sixth avenues, now in the very heart of the city, where property rents for enormous values. What they had to pay then is shown by the receipt of which the following is a copy:

CINCINNATI Jan<sup>y</sup> 7. 1812

Rec. of Andrew Coombs the sum of three dollars fifty cents in full for one months rent ending the 24th day of Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1812

JAMES WILLIAMS

In the spring of 1812, land was selected in Clermont county, about twenty-four miles from the center of the city, and two adjoining tracts, one for Andrew Coombs and one for Samuel Tibbetts, were laid off by a surveyor named Daniel Bayliff, February 22. This is the same land on which I am now living. It has been in possession of the family for one hundred years, while Cincinnati has grown until the corporation line is now only fourteen miles away.

After building and getting the family settled, clearing land and planting crops began. When this land was purchased it was a dense forest of beech, oak, hickory, poplar, sugartree, black walnut, etc. Not a tree had been cut. There was no public road, and when they came to it they had to blaze their way, so as to be able to find it again. I do not know in what year it

was done, but an apple orchard of about four acres was planted around the house, and an old resident told me that he saw those young trees growing among the logs in the clearing. Five more acres were added a few years later, and this old orchard proved to be very productive. I myself have gathered thousands of bushels from it, in days when spraying was never thought of. It is all gone now except one old, worthless, seedling pear tree.

But the hardships of pioneer life proved too much for the wife and mother, and about four years after settling here she sickened and died, leaving a family of six children.

About this time John Coombs, a cousin, son of "John Coombs with one thumb," son of Joshua, — a hatter by trade, — came to Cincinnati. He was a man of good business qualities, and prosecuted his business energetically, so that, although he died at the early age of forty-two, he was said to have been worth about \$50,000. Hatter's Alley in Cincinnati was so named because his shop was there. The story of his early life and shipwreck is told in another place.

Josiah Colby Coombs came to Cincinnati about this time, but after a year or two went back to Maine.

John Coombs's family was large, but quite a number of them died young. One son, James Coombs, was in business in Cincinnati within my recollection, in the firm of Coombs, Ryland & Ostrom, hardware merchants. I think that he died without male heirs. His widow, Emily L., afterward married a Mr. Newton, and lived in Denver, Col., while a daughter, Annis, married C. W. Withenbury and lived at Glendale, a suburb of Cincinnati. Another son, Alfred Davidson, lived in northern

Ohio, and also at Newtown, near Cincinnati. I think he had male heirs, but I have not been able to locate them.

But to resume the story of Andrew Coombs. Before leaving Maine he was a man of considerable business activity, dealing not only in merchandise, but also in real estate in Brunswick, Topsham, and other places. I have in my possession his account book which he kept while selling merchandise at Brunswick, from which I copy the following items as showing prices which prevailed in those days:

EDMUND KIMBALL	Dr.
To 1 1/4 bu. Meal	1.46
6 Cabbage heads	.54
Credit by 1 Hogshead of Salt	5.00

CAPT. JAMES CRAWFORD	Dr.
To Leather (calf-skin) for 1 Pr. Womens Shoes	.50
Credit by 6 bu. Potatoes	2.00

SAMUEL LOW	Dr.
To 14 pounds Veal at 4 1/2	.57
Cash	1.00
Credit by Herring	5.00
" 127 Shad at 4	5.08

He was not a strong man physically, and was excused from military duty, as shown by the following:

#### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

To COL<sup>o</sup>. JAMES ROGERS

Commander of the Fifth Regiment, First Brigade and Eighth Division, and to Capt. Stephen Whettemore Commander of one of the Companies in Said Regiment —

This is to certify that the bearer M<sup>r</sup> Andrew Coombs aught to be exempted from Military duty this present Season, by reason of Bodily Infirmary.

Lisbon, May 5. 1807.

BENJ. N. MANN,  
Surgeons Mate.

After coming to Ohio he lived in the old log cabin until 1826, when he built a substantial brick farmhouse, — the same house in which I now live, and which I remodeled in 1896.

Clearing land, accumulating property, and rearing a family were not to him the whole of life. He was a servant of his Maker and the public welfare, as we shall see by the following. On coming from Maine he brought his Church letter with him and united with the nearest Church of the same faith. The next move was to organize a Church nearer to him, and on July 17, 1819, a council met at the house of Dr. Samuel Tibbetts, which recognized the following-named persons as constituting the Second Baptist Church on Ten Mile:

Samuel Tibbetts	Abigail Tibbetts
Samuel Coffin	Ruth Whitney
Samuel Tibbetts, Jr.	Rebecca Tibbetts
Andrew Coombs	Susanna Tibbetts
Joseph Small	Reliance Tibbetts
Walter Butler	Mary Butler
Charles Tibbetts	Abigail Coombs
Mark P. Stinchfield	Betsy M. Coombs
	Rachael Stinchfield
	Rachael Stinchfield, 2d
	Jane Dickenson

The majority of these will be recognized as familiar



"THE HOME," AS IT WAS PREVIOUS TO 1896.



"THE CHURCH."





names in Maine, and among those constituting the recognizing council are the following:

Elder Ichabod Temple, representing the Church at Bowdoin, Me.

Elder Andrew Sherburne, representing the Church at Arundel, Me.

Brother Timothy Keezer, representing the Church at Wells, Me.

Brother Seth Hinkley, representing the Church at Four Mile, Ky.

About 1830 a meeting-house was built on a lot donated by Andrew Coombs on the corner of his farm. This was taken down and replaced by a substantial brick house in 1853, which still remains as the home of the Church.

The fight against human slavery was then fairly beginning, and the Coombs family took an active part in this. Rev. John Rankin of Ripley, Ohio, was one of the strongest opponents of slavery in all that region. His house was built on the hill back of the town, overlooking the Ohio River, and it is said that he always kept a light burning at night as a guide to any fugitive slave who might be needing the shelter which they knew he was always ready to give. It was at his house that "Eliza," of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," was received after her perilous crossing of the river on the floating ice with her babe in her arms. This John Rankin was an intimate friend of the Coombs family.

On August 14, 1836, The Gilead Anti-Slavery Society was organized, which soon grew to have seventy-two members. The officers were William Doan, Sr., president; Walter Butler, Sr., vice-president; E. T. Tibbetts, treasurer; and Andrew Coombs, Jr., secretary.

The treasurer's book shows that considerable sums of money and many books were donated for the purpose of building up an anti-slavery sentiment. The constitution of this society, however, expressly said: "This Society shall endeavor to elevate the character and condition of the colored people by encouraging their intellectual moral and religious improvement, but this society will never encourage the colored people to assert their rights by force."

In this work Andrew Coombs and his family took an active part, nobly assisted by his stepbrother and relative, Dr. Samuel Tibbets, as he did in all other such work. No brothers could have been more closely attached to each other than were these two. They saw, and were trying to avert, that storm of war which, a third of a century later, swept away the curse of slavery, but at the sacrifice of the life of thousands, among whom were many of their own flesh and blood.

Among some old papers I find one in the handwriting of my own good mother, written when I was less than two years old, which shows the feeling which existed among the anti-slavery people at that time. One of the dear friends she mentions was a brother living at Vicksburg, Miss., owner of the largest printing establishment in the state, and holder of quite a number of slaves. The paper reads as follows:

LISBON [OHIO] Feb. 7. 1842.

When I sit down and contemplate the scenes around us, all seems gloom and desolation. I have great reason to fear that our once happy land will be made desolate by the awful sin of slavery. Oh, that the day may soon come when slavery shall be abolished from our land and all shall enjoy the blessings of liberty! When I think of my own dear friends who are

indulging in this sin, I tremble for them lest they should die before they repent and be forever banished from the presence of God. Oh, how earnestly ought we to be engaged in prayer for those that see not their danger! Not by prayer alone, but let us exert all our powers to promote the cause of human rights. Let us aid in every way we can to convince our friends that they are sinning against a High Hand. We cannot be too diligent in discharging our duty towards our fellow creatures who are suffering under the yoke of bondage. They cry aloud for help, for they cannot help themselves, we know they cannot.

As a sequel to this, she lived to see, within the short space of four years, her husband, one daughter, and three sons swept away as the direct or indirect result of the war which made an end of slavery. And that brother lost an only son, killed in battle. At the siege of Vicksburg he fled to the rear with his family, only to find himself encompassed by the Union armies. An appeal to the friendship of General Grant protected him there, but he lost two of his children by diphtheria, and the greater part of his property was swept away by the bombardment of the city. Was it true that the sin of slavery, unrepented of, brought a curse on the whole land, both North and South? Yet God is not unjust.

About this time a wave of temperance reform was going over the land, and the Union Temperance Society was formed, in which Andrew Coombs and his family took a very active part. The book in which the constitution, by-laws, and minutes were kept is in my possession, and the history of the society is briefly summed up in an unsigned note which reads as follows:

The Union Temperance Society of Ohio Township was formed Feb. 4, 1830 with 26 members, — Wm. Doan sen. President,

Silas Dolen secretary. Opposition violent. Increase for some time rapid, since which the society has remained inactive until of late, and was rather on the decline ; but it is again considerably revived and may now be considered in a tolerably flourishing condition. The opposition has nearly ceased. Present number 83.

Not being allowed by the terms of the constitution to furnish intoxicating liquor for such occasions, the members of the society voted to help one another at log-rollings, house-raising, etc. This was done as a precaution against a "boycott."

I remember my grandfather as a kindly appearing old man about 5 ft. 11 in. in height, rather thin chested and slightly stooped, with thin, iron-gray hair. I was his favorite "little man," and picked up the potatoes for him when he went out to dig a mess for dinner.

The descendants of this large family are scattered from Boston to San Diego, and only myself, two sons, and three grandsons remain to perpetuate the name at the home place.

## CHAPTER VI. THE DOUGLAS GROUP.

About fifty miles northwest of Rochester, in the southern part of Worcester county, which reaches across the state from north to south, is the town of Douglas. The vital statistics of this town give the record of Reuben Coombs and his large family, which I give here. It is as follows:

Children of Reuben Coombs, by his wife Mary,

Joshua, b. April 25, 1742, at Douglas.

Hanneah, b. April 12, 1744, “

By his wife Thankful,

Mary, b. April 25, 1747, “

Joseph, b. Sept. 15, 1749, “

Comfort, b. April 9, 1751, “

Anteny [Anthony], b. July 7, 1753, “

Susannah, b. Nov. 26, 1755, “

Rozilliah, b. April 8, 1757, “

Borinee (?), b. Oct. 8, 1759, “

Thankful, b. May 23, 1762, “

Peter, b. Aug. 23, 1764, “

Stephen, b. Nov. 12, 1765, “

—bin [prob. Reuben], b. May 20, 1767, “

Ethemore [prob. Ithamer], b. Oct. 28, 1769, “

Marriages :

Joshua Coombs and Elizabeth Jepherson, May 28, 1761.

Hannah Coombs and Abram Turtelow, of Gloucester, April 3, 1764.

Joseph Coombs and Ame Brown of Gloucester (declared intention) April 3, 1764.

Mary Coombs and David Hill, July 31, 1769 (dec. int.).

Rosilla and Jonathan Hill, July 15, 1776 (dec. int.).

Comfort and William Herenden, of Smithfield, Sept. 12, 1776 (int.).

Susanna and James Peters, July 26, 1784 (int.).

Marcy Coombs and Stephen Mowry, of Gloucester, Feb. 4, 1788 (int.).

Anteny, m. to Lydia

Children :

Stephen b. Nov. 12, 1775.

Phoebe b. April 23, 1777.

The above "Anteny" is said to have had another son Anthony who was born 1778, and married, April 12, 1812, to Abigail Aldrich of Winchester, N.H. The elder Anthony is said to have been a soldier in the Revolutionary War, lived at Winchester, and died April 16, 1847.

An inventory of the estate of Reuben Coombs was taken November 22, 1770.

This is the mysterious group, the Melchisedec of the Coombs family. Who was this Reuben, and what became of his large family? I have not yet found a single Coombs who traced his ancestry back to this Reuben. The genealogists have tried to account for him and have never come to a satisfactory solution of the problem. There are persons of the Coombs name at Worcester, and around Sherborn and Medway, but they are, without doubt, of the Marblehead family, who were of English descent.

Zelotes Wood Coombs, Professor of Languages in Worcester Polytechnic Institute, — born June 8, 1865, — and whose father was John Bridges Coombs, gives the following account of the family, which I copy, as it may be of help to some who may wish to trace their ancestry:

WORCESTER, MASS.

Dec. 30, 1813.

MR. WM. C. COOMBS,

Amelia, O.

Dear Sir: I take pleasure in sending such material as I have been able to gather concerning my father's immediate family. He assures me that he never heard of Reuben Coombs of Douglas, Mass., and does not believe that our line comes from him.

You will note in our line that we do not go beyond my great grandfather, Oded. That is undoubtedly because his father was a Tory in the Revolutionary War and was forced to leave this country. Oded's father was, without question, from Marblehead or from that vicinity, and practically all the Coombs line in that region were Loyalists like him. Although he seems to have returned to this country after the war was over, the gap between him and his son, Oded, has never been bridged, so far as I am aware. I believe it could be bridged, and I hope to do it some time when I have a little leisure. We know that the Coombs family was settled in Marblehead and vicinity as early as 1647, and the line comes down direct to about the birth of Oded, 1775. This was when the patriots were making further stay in the colonies unpleasant for the Tories. A family tradition tells how after the father had left the country, the children migrated to Sherborn, Oded being carried part of the way on the back of an older brother. We believe that Oded's father was named Michael. The Coombs family were all Episcopalians, and St. Michael's churchyard in Marblehead is full of them.

. . . . .

I shall be glad to give any further aid that I can, but I have embodied about all the information I possess in this letter. My uncle, J. William Coombs of Sherborn, Mass., may be able to supplement this to some extent. He has lived there all his life and has kept in closer touch with many of the family traditions

than we could do here in Worcester, where we have lived nearly forty-two years.

Hoping that what I send will be of value, I am

Yours sincerely,

ZELOTES WOOD COOMBS.

He also gives this account of the family:

Oded Coombs, b. about 1775, d. 1857. Lived in Medway and Sherborn all his life. Married Polly Bacon of Franklin, Mass., their children being John Bridges Coombs and Lois Coombs.

Oded Coombs had two brothers. One was Jessee Coombs, who lived and died in Bellingham, Mass. Jessee had two sons, Valentine Coombs, High Sheriff of Norfolk Co., and Noah, who left a son probably still living in Medway or West Medway. Jessee also had a daughter, who married a Dewing and went to Ohio.

Oded's second brother was Stephen, who went to Colrain, Mass., where his descendants still live. (Noah's son was James Coombs.) Lois Coombs, dau. of Oded, m. — Holbrook and lived and died in Sherborn. She was b. 1805, d. 1885.

John Bridges Coombs, b. 1810, d. 1882, m. Hannah Mills Weston of Boston. Their children, Charles, Herbert, Mary, Daniel, all died before reaching maturity.

John Wesley Coombs, m. Adelaide Keith, d. Nov. 1910, leaving four dau., Hattie, Ethel, Jennie, Fannie, last two married.

Mattie Coombs, m. — Wiant, d. in New York, 1906 or '7, leaving no children.

George Weston Coombs, b. Nov. 4, 1837, m. Feb. 14, 1865, Ellen Adams Wood. Both still living. Their children:

Ellen Weston Coombs, b. Jan. 3, 1864, living unmarried.

Zelotes Wood Coombs, b. June 8, 1865.

Georgia Coombs, b. April 11, 1871, living unmarried.

No one can look over the names in Reuben's family and doubt that he was one of Anthony's descendants. There are Joshua, Anthony, Peter, John, and probably



Ithamer among the men, and Mary and Rose among the women, — six or seven names from the family of Anthony. But whose son was Reuben, and what became of his family of fourteen children? One writer thinks he has found a vacancy in the family of John into which he can fit this Reuben, but this is very doubtful. He bases it mainly on the fact that one Charity Coombs married, in 1760, Rev. Caleb Curtis, whom she met at Douglas. Among the children of John was one Charity, and it is supposed that she met him while visiting her brother.

I think I have found a more likely place into which to fit this mysterious Reuben. You will note that his affiliations are with Gloucester. One daughter, Hannah, married Abram Turtelow of Gloucester, and Joseph and Ame Brown of Gloucester on the same day declared their intention of marriage. I wonder if pretty Ame Brown did not come down to attend the wedding, and “Joe” fell in love at first sight, although he was not quite sixteen years old. A later declaration of marriage was that of Marcy Coombs and Stephen Mowry of Gloucester.

Now Anthony<sup>2</sup> was married at Gloucester in 1722. The only birth of his children recorded there is in 1727, leaving a vacancy of five years, in which not only Reuben, but also Charity, may have been born. If Reuben had been the oldest child he would have been twenty years old when his first child was born at Douglas, a thing not at all improbable. As Anthony moved northward and “down east,” perhaps the two oldest children were left with the old folks at Gloucester and never rejoined the rest of the family. This is the best probable solution of the mystery that I can give, and I leave it to others to prove or disprove it.

## CHAPTER VII. PERILS OF THE SEA.

Many of these men were sea-captains, sailors, and fishermen. The simple words "lost at sea" cover many a tale of hardship, bereaved wives and orphaned children. In those days there were few of those innumerable lights that now line the channel to the port, mark the rocks and shoals, or flash changing lights on every important point and promontory. Charts were few and imperfect. No life-saving crews were on the watch. No wireless "S.O.S." called great ocean liners to turn from their course and rescue lives from an imperiled vessel. The perils of the deep were great in those days of small wooden ships, dependent on the wind only for power to move. Many of the Coombs family endured these things, but I can only give you a few of the stories from real life, which, with all its dangers, had a strange, fascinating power over many. The first is of my great-grandfather, Capt. Ebenezer Coombs, son of Joshua and grandson of ancestor Anthony, and I give his story in the words of his widow, after she had remarried and moved to Ohio, and which were written down by my father. It is as follows:

Ebenezer Coombs was born in Newburyport in 1747. He was four years old when his father removed from Newburyport. He early showed an inclination for the sea. This one pursuit engrossed his whole attention; so much so that he would not be prevailed upon to engage in any other business. His parents, not being willing that he should go to sea, wished him to learn a trade, but at the age of fourteen he left home without leave, and went a voyage in a coaster to Boston. When he returned his friends advised his father to let him go to sea. He accordingly

was apprenticed to a sea-captain by the name of G. Gardner on the island of Nantucket. Whilst an apprentice he studied navigation, and became one of the most skilful of navigators. At the age of eighteen he was put by his master in command of a vessel. When near twenty-one he sailed from Nantucket to Newfoundland, thence to Spain and France, and returned to Nantucket, a voyage of eighteen months. He followed whaling three years. At the age of twenty-four he returned to his relations, but they did not know him. After remaining a few weeks he went to sea again. In about one year he left Nantucket entirely, and went to his relations again in Bath (then Georgetown). He there got acquainted with his future wife. Not willing to undertake or engage in any other business, he soon went to sea again. An old man, the owner of the vessel, went in the capacity of captain, and he as mate, but he had sole command and management of the vessel.

A Captain Layman built a new schooner, and he went as first mate on two voyages. After this he married Abigail Thompson, in the year 1774. He went first mate of the same schooner until the Revolutionary War commenced, when it was fitted up as a privateer. He was employed to take command of a trading vessel. He had got it loaded and ready to sail, when the news of the embargo came. The vessel was accordingly detained. A volunteer company was made up consisting of mates and captains of vessels. They sailed to Penobscot to encounter the enemy, but were defeated, and lost all. He purchased a house and lot in the town of Topsham, where he settled his family. He entered into partnership with the owners of a vessel, and loaded her with lumber for the West India market. His interest in the loading was valuable. In a few hours after he sailed they were taken by the enemy, and lost all. He and his brother, John Coombs, his mate, were set on shore, and they returned home. He made a voyage to France. On returning with a rich cargo, having been very prosperous, he was again taken by the enemy and carried a prisoner to New Providence. He deter-

mined to see the governor. He went to the house and inquired, but was told he could not see him. He resolutely insisted that he must see him. The governor was very friendly and asked him what he wished. He told his situation, wishing to have liberty of the town for himself and his apprentice, Stephen Gould, that they might get work. His request was granted. He then made a similar request for the crew, but without success. He got employment for himself and apprentice at repairing and rigging a vessel, and continued to work until the exchange of prisoners took place. The governor appointed him to pilot the vessel which carried the prisoners to Baltimore to be exchanged. The crew returned home. He again fitted out for a voyage to Eutasia, was taken again by the enemy, and returned again to Baltimore. He went from there to Philadelphia. He went out from there on a privateering cruise. He took two prizes and returned home. He was afterwards commissioned captain of a privateer, of Boston, by Governor Hancock.

The records say that a petition, dated Boston, April 18, 1782, and signed by Joshua Witherly and Jacob Fox of Boston, asked that Ebenezer Coombs be commissioned as commander of the schooner "Free Mason" (privateer), and it was ordered in council, April 18, 1782, that a commission be issued. Of his experience in this capacity let him tell in this letter to his wife, at Tops-ham:

KENNEBEC RIVER December 25. A.D. 1782.

My dear, By these lines I inform you that I have returned from my Cruize as far as the mouth of this river, and should a come home if I could. But our Provision is all out and a fair wind permits so that I cant come to sea you now, which I am very sorry for. But I shall return from Boston as soon as possible I can. I have taken nothing this cruize. I am in a hurry now or I would write the particulars of the cruize. I suppose you have heard by letters of my sickness, but thanks be to God

I am in a great measure recovered of my sickness Which I never expected. So no more But I remain Your True and Loving Husband,

EBEN<sup>r</sup> COOMBES.

N.B. I have sent by Mr. Samson a bag with some Sheeps wool and some feathers and a small bag of Board Nails and one Orger.

The war closed not very long after this, and as he was about to start on a voyage to the West Indies, he went back to tell his wife the joyful news and to assure her that her troubles now were over. Again we will let him tell the story of this West Indian voyage in a letter to his wife:

GUARDELUPE, at Point Peter, Aug. ye 18. 1783.

Dear and Loving Wife these are to inform you that this is the first opportunity I have had to right to you since I arrived at this port, and now I have a small prospect of getting to you a few lines by the way of Cape Ann in a brig bound to that port. . . . I am well and sincerely wish these may find you all as well as they leave me and all our friends.

I arrived here after a long voyage of thirty five days, We have all our cargo out and have begun to take on board molasses, but it is very scarce so that I cannot tell when we shall be ready to sail, But I hope in a fortnite or three weeks for Boston then with Gods permission I shall come home. Mr. Randall is well and desires to be remembered to all inquiring friends. There is so little hopes of your getting this letter that I shall not right any thing particular But hope you have got the money and things that I sent you and wish that you may do better than my expectations, The time will be but short now before with the blessing of God I shall see you all. . . . So after my duty to Mother and love to brothers and sisters shall conclude Your true and loving husband til Deth.

EBENN<sup>r</sup>. COOMBES

But trouble still remained, for on the voyage home he sickened and died of yellow fever. A little scrap of paper which appeared to have been torn from the log-book read:

On Oct. 8. 1783 Capt. Coombs departed this life and we committed his body to the deep.

The letters I have copied were kept by his widow as cherished mementos, and I have them in my possession.

The other story is of John Coombs, nephew of Captain Ebenezer, and the same who afterward went to Cincinnati, where he engaged in business and prospered as a hatter. It was related to me by my aunt, Mrs. Conklin, and written down by myself at the time. The story is as follows:

At the age of fourteen he ran away and went to sea. The vessel was three times blown back by adverse winds and he gave it up. Soon after he went, but the vessel was wrecked. He was rescued and carried to France. Made his way back home. When about seventeen he went again. Again the vessel was wrecked. The vessel foundered and the crew took to the deck and floated three weeks without food. Nothing could be got at but rum. John Coombs and the mate, afterwards Captain Sanford, were the only ones who would not drink the rum. They survived and kept alive by eating the flesh of the others. Their signals were disregarded. When John Coombs could no longer stand, Sanford saw a sail and hoisted the signal, but feared to tell his companion for fear another disappointment would cause his death. The sail disappeared, then took another tack and came near. They were rescued, and it proved to be a French vessel. Afterwards they were put on board an American vessel and carried to New York. The captain gave them each a suit of clothes and money enough to reach their homes. This

cured him of all desire for the sea, and he was never known to tell the horrible story but once.

Another account says that he was lame on account of having had his feet frozen when he was shipwrecked. Mrs. Purinton says: "I can remember hearing my mother tell of his stopping at grandfather's one winter, and grandmother doctoring him all winter where he had been frost-bitten and water-soaked; said he could not walk for the winter."

#### STORY OF JAMES COOMBS.

[As told by Mrs. Purinton.]

James Coombs, son of Sarah and David Coombs, sailed from Bath, Me., in the ship "Mobile," which was built at Bath. Went to Liverpool, and from thence sailed for New Orleans with a crew of one hundred souls on board, but was wrecked in the Irish Sea. Two only were saved. I have read on the tombstone of James this verse, composed by his father:

On Arklow Banks, near Ireland's coast,  
The ship Mobile and crew were lost,  
And one of them was James, our son.  
Lord, help us say, Thy will be done!

#### CAPT. DAVID EDWIN COOMBS.

Another son of the same David and Sarah Coombs was David Edwin. "A sea Captain, severe and harsh, who loaded his vessels to the limit, and drove them through gale or calm." He was a man of remarkable mental and physical ability, as is shown by the following anecdotes:

This was related by his brother Elbridge. When in school he failed to learn his geometry lesson and was reproved. On the second day he failed and was threatened with a beating. On the third day he learned everything in the book, from cover to cover.

His son was also an eyewitness to the following: One day while loading his vessel with baled cotton, a bale became jammed below the hatchway. The long-shoremen failed to remove it. Edwin became impatient, stepped to the corner of the hatch, grasped the rope attached to the bale, and lifted it bodily from its position. Weight of the bale, 1800 pounds.

His large size is shown by this: One day while his sons, Horace weighing 160 pounds, and his brother, 140, were at home they found a shirt which had been worn by their father. They both got inside the shirt and were able to turn around easily.

In the fall of 1867, while in command of the brig "Sarah," of which he was the chief owner, and his brother George was mate, the vessel was struck by a cyclone and tidal wave, and went down instantly, with all on board, off the Island of St. Thomas. Neither his physical strength, his mental abilities, nor his daring were of any avail against such a calamity.

#### HORACE REED COOMBS.

Horace, son of Capt. David Edwin Coombs, was born at sea on board the ship "Charlotte Reed," in 1858.

He began his life as a mariner at the age of seventeen, as "boy before the mast" in the ship "Sam Skolfield," built at Brunswick, Me. — rising through successive positions of second and first officer so that he was in



command of the ships "General Fairchild," "George R. Scholfield," "D. A. Brayton," and brigs "Taria Topan," and "Mary Gibbs." While in command of this vessel, which sailed from Norfolk for South America, laden with coal, he was lost with all on board. The vessel was never heard from.

This made three sons and one grandson lost from one family. Truly, the perils of the sea were not in name only!

## CHAPTER VIII. SKETCHES.

### ANDREW COOMBS, JR., AND FAMILY.

He came to Ohio with his father when six years old, attended the public schools, and lived on the home farm until he reached manhood. He then went to Ripley, Ohio, where he studied in a private school kept by Rev. John Rankin, in which he was also employed as assistant teacher. Returning to his home he took charge of his father's farm. Not long after this he married Kitty A. Shannon, who proved a good helpmate and mother. Purchasing of his father about 35 acres of land on the west side of the road, he built a house on it, in which he lived until he died. Entering into partnership with his father, they conducted a general store for some time, and he finally assumed full charge and ownership. He also opened a store at Cincinnati, corner of Third and John streets, fronting on what was then the Canal Basin, now the location of the Union Central Depot. He prospered in this business and at home, and on the death of his father he purchased the shares of the other heirs in the home farm. He took great interest in improved agriculture, and was one of the organizers and officers of the county agricultural society. He was also a leader in public improvements, anti-slavery and temperance movements, as well as church affairs.

Becoming entangled in some western interests, he was caught by the panic of 1857, and was somewhat crippled financially. The Civil War began soon after, and his four sons entered the army. His health gave way and he died before the close of the war. The good wife and mother survived and lived to the age of

ninety-four, always feeling deeply the loss of her brave sons, but consoled by the thought that the country she loved was no longer cursed by the blight of slavery.

Following are brief sketches of their children:

Maria S. Coombs was a student at Clermont Academy, after which she taught school for a while, then resided at home until her marriage to Dr. Joseph S. Galloway, with whom she lived until her death. She was the mother of Joseph C. Galloway of Port Allegheny, Pa., and Mrs. Edna Huffman of Columbus, Ohio. Her husband was assistant physician or head of various health institutions at Dansville, N. Y., Hamilton, Ill., Union City and Waukesha, Wis., and at other places, practising without drugs, which he abandoned early in his professional life.

Albert B. Coombs was the oldest son, and his father relied on him to lead in the work at home. He studied at Clermont Academy, and for a short time at Denison University; was remarkably energetic, and utterly fearless in what he thought was duty. An earnest opponent of human slavery, on the breaking out of the Civil War, he enlisted, on the first call, in the 12th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and did hard service in West Virginia and on the Potomac. His comrades say that he was the only man in his company who would neither drink whiskey, swear, nor play cards, and in the midst of such surroundings he confessed Christ and lived a consistent Christian life. His comrades all say, "Albert was a good soldier." He fell, mortally wounded, at the second battle of Bull Run. I do not know how they heard of it, but it was commonly reported among his comrades that the rebel General Jackson said, "It was a pity to kill so brave a man." His death was a blow that hastened the death of his father.

Joseph P. Coombs was a student in Denison University, of a poetic temperament and a writer of uncommon ability, and was preparing to publish a volume of his poems when he died. He joined the 34th Regiment Ohio Zouaves and did military service in West Virginia until disabled by measles, resulting in consumption. He was honorably discharged at Gallipolis, Ohio, and came home to die May 8, 1863.

William Carey Coombs, the compiler of this history, was a student in Denison University one year. Came home and enlisted in the 89th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Did service in Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee, until disabled by measles, followed by typhoid fever, and was honorably discharged at Gallatin, Tenn., December 27, 1863. Came home, nursed the father, sister, and brother in their last sicknesses, and has ever since resided at the home place.

Olin Coombs was my brother-chum. We worked together, studied together, and enlisted together in Company F, 89th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Olin was wounded in the head at the battle of Chickamauga. After recovery he was appointed quartermaster-sergeant, and accompanied his regiment on Sherman's "March to the Sea," thence North to Washington, where he was mustered out at the close of the war. He resumed his studies at Denison University until his health failed, and he died at St. Anthony, Minn., July 25, 1867.

Emma C. Coombs was the youngest, and the pet of the family. She studied at Clermont Academy and at the Young Ladies' Institute at Granville, Ohio. She died May 28, 1866. A more sweet-spirited Christian girl than Sister Emma it would be hard to find.

All these were Christian workers, and all, except Albert, members of the home church. We knew nothing of the contagious nature of consumption in those days, so no precautions were taken to prevent the spread of the disease when Joseph returned from the army and died of it in 1863. The father's death from the same disease followed in 1864, Sister Emma's in 1866, and Olin's in 1867. These deaths, with Albert's, who was killed in battle in 1862, made five deaths within five years, all traceable to army life. Do you wonder that my mother's life was saddened to the end of her days, and that after a while she refused to attend any more soldiers' reunions, where she was only reminded of her own loved ones, lost to this life? Such is the sacrifice that many a family made for our beloved land and nation. Such the cost of cherishing the sin of slavery.

#### WILLIAM HARVEY COOMBS AND FAMILY.

William Harvey Coombs, son of Andrew Coombs, Sr., came to Ohio with his father when about three years old. After growing to manhood on his father's farm he went to Connersville, Ind., where he studied law under Caleb B. Smith. He settled at Fort Wayne, where he built up a successful law practice, and married Miss Jane Edsall, a very worthy woman.

On the breaking out of the "gold fever," when the rush to California began, he decided to go to that state. In September, 1849, he went to Boston, Mass., and Kennebunk, Me., where he bargained for the brig "Swiss Boy" for the company with whom he was going. For this they were to pay \$6500, expecting to spend \$1500 in fitting up cabins for the passengers.

They intended to carry a cargo of lumber, but when some of the party failed to join them this plan was given up. After many vexatious delays, he and others engaged passage on the brig "Orleans" from New York, and sailed on the 10th day of December. For himself, his wife and three children, and brother Thomas, he paid for passage \$650. It proved a long and tedious passage of nine months, going around Cape Horn, at the southern extremity of South America, and crossing the tropics twice. Reaching San Francisco, he purchased land near San José, at the southern end of the bay, and began farming. Such was the rush of gold miners and settlers to the state that potatoes and onions sold at \$1 per pound. He planted as largely as his means would permit, and the soil was wonderfully productive, but the next year great ricks of potatoes rotted on the wharves for want of a purchaser. Those California stories of big crops of potatoes, wheat, barley, etc., were very interesting to us in those days.

After six years he returned to Fort Wayne and resumed the practice of law, which he continued until he was eighty or more years of age, serving some time prior to 1883 as judge of the United States Court.

He died at the age of eighty-six, only a few months after the death of his faithful wife. Death made sad inroads into the families of this generation, as will be seen by a study of the genealogical lists, and his family was no exception.

John Marshall Coombs, his oldest son, was a very successful hardware merchant at Fort Wayne until his health failed, and he died after a fruitless effort to regain his vigor in this country and Europe.

## JOSEPH J. COOMBS.

Joseph Jackson Coombs, third son of Andrew, Sr., was brought to Ohio when very young. His sisters told this little "baby story" of him. On the journey from Maine, by wagon, he was one year old on the day that they crossed the Alleghany Mountains. At the crest he was taken out of the wagon and made to walk a few steps so that it could be said that he walked over the Alleghany Mountains when he was one year old.

At the age of sixteen he left the farm to make his own living in the world. Going to the county seat, Batavia, he learned the printer's trade. At twenty he went to Columbus, Ohio, seeking work as a journeyman printer. The journey seems to have been made on foot and, on account of sickness from exposure, occupied five days. Much of the way it was through a dense forest, where the houses were from three to eight miles apart. From Columbus he went to Gallipolis, Ohio, where he edited a paper and was elected to the state legislature. He also served as judge of the Circuit Court. Here he married Miss Alice Leiby.

After this he removed to Washington City, where he practised law. During the Civil War he was appointed judge of the Court of Appeals of the Patent Office, by President Lincoln. This he held for a number of years, but finally resigned and resumed the practice of law. He was considered one of the foremost patent lawyers in the United States.

Of his family of nine children, only one now lives, Mrs. Alice C. Getchell, of Dorchester, Mass., whose two sons are conducting their late father's business, that of law printing, at 185 Franklin street, Boston.

### JOSEPH COOMBS GALLOWAY.

Joseph Coombs Galloway, son of Maria S. Coombs and Dr. Joseph S. Galloway, is now living at Port Allegheny, a pretty town in northern Pennsylvania, on the upper waters of the Allegheny River. Mr. Galloway is a born naturalist, a quick and accurate observer of the habits of plants and animals, and he very naturally fell into the greenhouse and nursery business. He has a large greenhouse, equipped with modern facilities, and ample propagating grounds, where, with the very efficient help of his wife, they are doing a successful business. He is also a skilful taxidermist and has a fine collection of stuffed animals and birds, — his own handiwork.

They take an active interest in Sunday-school and church work, and in the welfare of the community in which they have made their home.

### OLIVER P. CONKLIN.

Oliver Perry Conklin, son of Abigail Coombs and Amos Conklin, spent most of his boyhood at Cincinnati, Ohio, and was graduated from Denison University, Granville, Ohio. After graduation he taught for a few years in the same institution, and then removed to Cincinnati, where he married Miss Lizzie Treasure. Here he was employed in a banking house until the failure of his health compelled him to remove to St. Paul, Minn. There he engaged, with his brother-in-law, Mr. Edwin Treasure, in the manufacture and sale of women's shoes. His health having greatly improved, he returned to Ohio, where, a few years later, he fell a victim to the "Great White Plague," consumption. At Cincinnati he was for some time superintendent of the





OLIVER PERRY CONKLIN



Sunday-school of the First Baptist Church, and was active in other church work.

He had a bright mind, and was a conscientious, Christian gentleman, — my “chum” at college, and my favorite cousin.

#### ANDREW COOMBS HUBBARD.

Andrew Coombs Hubbard, son of Martha Coombs and Rufus Hubbard, was born in Clermont county, Ohio, but spent most of his boyhood at Cincinnati, and was graduated from Denison University, Granville, Ohio, class of 1860. After graduation he was ordained as a Baptist minister, and held pastorates at the following places: Woodstock, Ill., 1861–1862; Springfield, Ill., 1862–1865; First Baptist Church at Cincinnati, Ohio, 1865–1868; at Danbury, Conn., 1868–1903, thirty-five years as active pastor, then as pastor emeritus until the time of his death. His long service as a minister and as a member of the school board greatly endeared him to the people of Danbury, and at his death high tribute was paid to him by the ministers of the city, public-school teachers, officials, and newspapers, and by the masonic fraternity, of which he was an esteemed member. After his death the “King’s Daughters” placed a beautiful memorial window in the church in his memory, with this motto, which was also his last message to his people, “I know in whom I have believed.”

#### REV. STEPHEN COOMBS.

The following letter, written by his son, Rev. Irving W. Coombs, is so full of facts from beginning to end that I give it exactly as written:

157 RIDGE AVE., Lakewood, N.J., Mar. 6, 1913.

Dear Brother: I have your letter of 24th ult., and in reply would say that my father, Rev. Stephen Coombs, was born in Jamaica, Vt., June 30, 1799, his father, Rev. Simeon Coombs, being the first settled pastor in that town, and as such received a grant of 300 acres of land from that state.

Father was converted to Christ when about 18 years old and soon became active in the Master's service. He studied at New Hampton Lit. and Theological Institute, at New Hampton, N.H.

He was ordained to the Baptist ministry at a meeting of the Barnstable Baptist Association at Barnstable, Mass., in May, 1824, which at the same meeting ordained Otis Wing.

Father was for 50 years almost continuously in the work as pastor of various Baptist churches in Mass. and New Hampshire. He was a ready and effective speaker and faithful pastor, and during his long years of service led many to accept Christ as Savior and Lord. For about nine years he was missionary to the Indian tribes residing at Mashpee and Pondville in the state of Mass. Prior to his ordination he was largely helpful in gathering the church at Chatham, Mass., where I was ordained, Nov. 2, 1876. He held pastorates at Beech Wood, West Harwick, Mashpee, Pondville, and South Yarmouth in Mass., at Springfield, Lyme, Hill, Sanbornton, Hebron, Woodstock, Salisbury, and Sutton, N.H., and was for a while an itinerant missionary in the state of Vermont.

He died in Concord, N.H., Mar. 11, 1895, being then 95 years, 8 months, and 11 days old.

Yours in the faith and hope of the Gospel,

IRVING W. COOMBS.

REV. HENRY C. COOMBS.

The town of Middleboro has as a resident one of the most remarkable men in New England. He is Rev. Henry Clark Coombs, aged 93, the second oldest Baptist minister in the



REV. ANDREW COOMBS J. C. BEARD



United States, as far as is known, and an active prohibition worker.

For some years he has not been connected with any church as pastor, but is always ready to supply churches, and frequently does, in spite of his advanced age.

He was born in Middleboro Sept. 3, 1810, and was the son of Rev. Simeon Coombs, who was also a Baptist minister. His birthplace was in the section of Lakeville known as Beechwoods, which was then a part of Middleboro. Rev. Mr. Coombs was the youngest of a family of 14 children. He lived on the family place in Lakeville during his early years, and when he was nine years old his father died. The following spring his mother died, and it became necessary for the young man to start out and shift for himself.

He located with Noah Williams in Raynham and lived there for about two years, when he decided to go to New York to visit some relatives.

While with these relatives he engaged in farming for them, and often was obliged to drive a two-yoke team of oxen through unbroken ground, to clear it, and prepare for its planting. He worked very hard during the months he stayed there, and at the expiration of more than a year he decided to return to Massachusetts again.

Five-hour expresses were not running during that time, so Mr. Coombs started on the long walk from New York city to this town. He had but \$6 in his pocket when the trip was started, but, bravely plodding on, he finally reached this state after about a week's travel.

On his return to Massachusetts he went to Centerville, on Cape Cod, where he remained with his sister for a time. Even though he was still a young man he was greatly interested in religious work, and while at his sister's held a helpful revival. After a short visit he continued to Nantucket, that he might get away from his former associations and live a good life.

When he arrived on the island he met an old sea-captain who needed help, and young Coombs hired out at \$10 a month and

board, but later the captain was so pleased he raised the stipend to \$12.

The young man remained there for 13 months, and, quite different from the youth of today, did not draw a cent of wages till he took the whole sum at the end of his term of service, and with this sum started back to the mainland to gain an education and prepare for his life work.

He first went to New Hampton, N.H., and attended school for a time, and then returned to Middleboro and entered the old Peirce Academy. While at the academy his ability in religious work was readily seen, and when a Norton man came over to the school to secure a student to have charge of a religious meeting in that town, he was recommended to see Mr. Coombs.

Rev. Mr. Coombs accompanied him to Norton, and there held the first meeting. From this start he was in great demand, and several times he was called to supply at the church, and the religious interest in the town greatly increased, and after a successful two years' pastorate there Rev. Mr. Coombs went to Mansfield.

In this place another awakening was experienced and large numbers joined the church. It was at this place also that Rev. Mr. Coombs met his first wife. They were married, but she died shortly after the marriage. He went to Troy, Penn., next, to dispose of some property his father-in-law owned there, but when his preaching was heard a call was given him and he accepted. For a year he was a successful pastor, returning to Massachusetts for a visit.

One day while in Boston a stranger approached him and told him he was wanted to preach at Mashpee. He was at first opposed to going there, but later Rev. Mr. Coombs said he would go if the man would transport him there to see how he liked it, and, if it was unsatisfactory, he would bring him back. He went, and apparently it was satisfactory, for he remained there a year. He also taught school during his stop there. The year bore fruit abundantly, and there were many conversions.





REV. HENRY CLARK COOMBS.



His next pastorate was at Rehoboth. A new church had been built, and money was needed to meet the payments. Finally the church committee authorized Rev. Mr. Coombs to assist them, and he started on a canvass. After a little work he raised half the money needed to pay the bill. He remained with the church for four years, paying off their debts and placing them in a prosperous condition. The clergyman he succeeded went to Mashpee, where he, too, was successful.

From this place he went to Shutesbury, Mass., and later to Kingston, R.I., returning to Middleboro in 1849. During these later years Rev. Mr. Coombs has supplied a great deal, not accepting a church, as he was kept very busy attending to his second wife, who was an invalid.

His life work in the ministry has been closely associated with his work in the interests of temperance and prohibition. In the '60s he made a tour of all the schools in Plymouth county and Barnstable county as far as the last school on Cape Cod, talking in the interests of temperance. He also visited all the schools in the towns of Bristol county, also talking temperance to the scholars.

In his career as a minister he erected four meeting-houses and raised money to repair and refurnish two others.

His second marriage was March 4, 1889, when he married Miss Ruth P. Burt of Somerset. Five children were born, four of whom are now living: Mrs. Charles A. Wood of Middleboro, Mrs. Louis K. Harlow of Brookline, S. Henry Coombs of Watertown, and Mrs. John F. Holmes, with whom he resides.

#### CAPT. ROBERT HUDSON COOMBS.

The sea has always presented a strange fascination to some people, and one of these was Capt. Robert Hudson Coombs, born at Islesboro, Me., in 1828. He began his career as a sailor when only nine years old, and progressed so fast that at the age of sixteen he was master of the schooner "Jane" of Belfast. After that

he followed the sea many years and commanded the schooners "Diana," "Eri," "Royal Welcome," "Tippecanoe," "Pensacola," "Fred. Dyer," and "Lydia Brooks;" the brig "Russian;" the barks "P. R. Hazeltine" and "Diana;" and the ships "Live Oak" and "Cora," the last one being named for his daughter.



BIRTHPLACE OF REV. HENRY CLARK COOMBS.



## CHAPTER IX. STORIES.

### A STORY OF THE WAR OF 1812.

[As told by Mrs. Alonzo Purinton.]

My grandfather, Zebulon Coombs, was in the 1812 War. The years of 1812 and 1813 were called the cold years. One of them—I do not know which—had a frost every month, and no corn was raised. So the Governor of Massachusetts (for this was before Maine became a separate state) issued a proclamation that he would give every soldier's wife two bushels of corn if she would go to Bath and get it. So my grandmother rode from Bowdoin to Bath on horseback, a distance of about twenty miles. She got the corn and returned to a grist-mill that was somewhere near Brunswick, and had her corn ground into meal. She then started for home, but her horse became frightened, threw her off, and broke her arm. She led her horse to the nearest doctor, — I think in Brunswick, — and had it set. She then mounted her horse again and came home with her bag of meal and broken arm. This was when my mother, Nancy, was a baby.

### A LOBSTER STORY.

Frank Mullen Coombs, living at Vinalhaven at the mouth of the Penobscot River and Bay, is now eighty-five years old and has not done any regular work at his trade for many years, but is living comfortably on the earnings of his more active days. His work was mostly shore fishing, and principally the catching of lobsters.

Lobsters are caught in traps, which are simply boxes made of lath, with cotton-twine heads where the lobsters go in. They are tolled in by a bag of herring hung on a spindle near the middle of the box.

Now they are protected by law, and a "market lobster" must measure at least  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches on the body, or "tomaly box" as the fishermen call it. All under that size must be thrown back into the water to grow some more. In older days the market lobster must measure  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches from the tip of the tail to the end of the nose, and the cannery lobster 9 inches. Then the price of the market lobsters was  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 cents each; and for the cannery size, \$1.50 per 100 pounds. Now they are growing scarce and bring 20 to 30 cents each, and 50 is considered a good day's catch.

Mr. Coombs says his best day's catch was 400 market size and \$8.00 worth of cannery size. What a sight that catch would have been to a landsman! Four hundred large lobsters, with their big ugly claws, their bluish green shells, and their waving "feelers," if traveling in a row would make a line at least 500 feet long, and the smaller ones would double it. Or they would cover the floor of a room 20 feet square.

They are esteemed a great delicacy, and are cooked by plumping them all alive into boiling water. "A dead lobster is no good," they say. Boiling turns them a bright red color: hence the saying, "as red as a boiled lobster." After boiling, the shells are broken with a hammer and the white flesh is taken out and eaten — with a relish, if you have been hardened to it, or did not see the ugly green lobster plumped into the boiling water.





THE HEALY CHILDREN: CARRIE, 12; ERNEST,  
4; ALICE, 2. TAKEN WHEN ABOUT TO  
START ON A FOUR YEARS' VOYAGE



## HOW CAPTAIN HEALY CAME TO SETTLE IN MAINE.

Capt. Abraham H. Healy was a cotton spinner and a native of Fall River, Mass. On one of his visits to Maine he became acquainted with Nancy Coombs of Bowdoin, and married her. The following story shows him as a man of worthy mettle: The owners of a mill where he was overseer of the spinning department, at a certain election commanded all of their operatives to vote for a certain candidate. He went to one of the owners and said, "Have I not always given satisfaction in my department?" "Yes, perfect." "Well, you hire me, and my time is yours, but my vote and my conscience are mine. I leave in two weeks."

When he came home he told his wife that he was through with working in the mill, and thought he would buy a farm. She laughingly told him that if he lived on a farm he would have to live on potatoes and milk. He said, "All right; have some baked potatoes, milk and salt for dinner." She did so, and after dinner he said, "That does all right; I will buy a farm." She said, "If you do I wish you would buy it near my people." Her visits home had been made by going to Boston, taking a sailing vessel to Bath, then out to Bowdoin by team. This is why Captain Healy settled in Maine.

## A STORY FOR THE CHILDREN.

This little girl whose picture you see is Caroline Thompson Healy, and the two little ones with her are her little brother Ernest and her sister Alice. Her grandmother was a Coombs, and her grandpa was a sea-captain, a man who commanded ships and spent most of his time sailing over the blue water of the ocean.

Her papa was a sea-captain too, and she used to go with him on the ship. When this picture was taken she was twelve years old, and her little brother was four and Alice two. Her papa had been gone for a year and they all wanted to see him and be with him, and her papa wanted to have mama and the "kids" with him, as all good papas do. So he sent for them, and mama took her and the other little ones and went on the cars from Maine to San Francisco, a long, long journey of many thousands of miles. This picture was taken just before they started.

At San Francisco their papa met them and took them on the big ship. They stayed on the ship for four years, and went to the other side of the world, where they saw many strange sights and people. They saw yellow-skinned Chinamen, with queer-looking eyes and with long hair braided and hanging down their backs, like a cow's tail. They also saw little brown-skinned Japanese, and many other strange people.

While they were in Japan, at a big city called Nagasaki, poor little Alice contracted diphtheria and died, and they had to go away without her.

When the sea was smooth it was nice to sail over the clear, blue water; but sometimes the black clouds would come up, the wind would blow hard, and then the water would get rough, the ship would roll from side to side, and bob up and down like a cork. I like to sail over the water when it is smooth, but when it gets this way it makes me awfully seasick. I do not know whether these children were seasick or not. Perhaps they sailed so much that they got used to it.

They had no chance to go to school on the ship, and had nobody but each other to play with, so Caroline

sometimes got lonesome, and then her father would tell her about her relations, and about the old grandfathers and grandmothers who were dead and gone, — who were Coombs's and Healys, — and she began to write it all in a book, with a smart way of numbering them so they could be found easily. After she got home she finished it up and gave it to her aunt, who thinks a great deal of it, and it has been a great help to me in making this book.

Caroline is a grown-up woman now, is married and has four children of her own. Their names are Harold, Ruth, Pearl, and Edith, and they live in Auburn, Me.

Would you like to live four long years on a ship?

[These stories were by Mrs. Alonzo Purinton.]

#### AN HONEST MAN.

Albert Milton Coombs was a sparmaker, and as honest and true a man as ever walked. He worked for a firm in East Boston for thirty-five years. When he had worked about twenty-one years, one day he made a mistake in measuring a spar for a big ship. The timber he was to make it of came from the forests of Canada and cost \$100. After he had got it partly cut he found he had cut it too short. There was no way to remedy the error except to use it for a smaller vessel.

He went to Mr. Pidgeon, the owner of the yard, feeling he must pay for the timber, but knowing he would have to ask Mr. Pidgeon to trust him for a time, for he had a large family to support. When he had told him, Mr. Pidgeon replied, "*I am glad of it; I am glad of it;* when a man has worked in one yard twenty-one years it is time he made a mistake! Pay for it,

man? An owner can afford to stand a mistake once in twenty-one years. Make it for a smaller vessel. *It's all right!*"

#### CAPTAIN HEALY AND THE CHINESE.

My brother, Abram Healy (son of Nancy Coombs and Abraham H. Healy), always, from a small boy, had a desire to follow the sea, probably because he had uncles on both father's and mother's side that did, and he had listened to their stories of adventure. By nature he was fitted for a lawyer, for he had great reasoning ability, and the power to make others see as he did. He began to follow the sea at the age of nineteen, and became a successful master and business man.

But once, when coasting in the East, he had a chance to use his lawyer's ability to good advantage. He was ascending a river to a port in the northern part of China. The tide and wind were in his favor and he was sailing right along. The channel of the river was narrow and very crooked, and when he came around a bend in the river, behold there was a Chinese junk anchored across the channel. He immediately furled sail, spoke them, and retarded his progress all he could. They did not have any watch out and he could not see any one on board. In spite of all he could do, he ran into her and cut her in two. Then the Chinamen appeared, took to their boats, and put for the shore. He tried to get them to help him save some of the cargo, but they would not. He saved all the cargo he could and took it into port, and if the Chinamen had done all they could, they might have saved the greater part of it. Soon after arriving in port he was sued for \$5500. There were not many English-speaking persons in this

port. He went to the American consul for aid. The consul told Captain Healy that, as this was in China, he would not stand any chance at all in a lawsuit, and the best he could do was to make the best terms possible and settle it. Captain Healy thought that the old junk was anchored across the channel on purpose to sell it in that way, and that it would not be doing justice to himself or his owners to settle. He had no hope of getting justice in a Chinese court, but had hopes that he could get it laid over, to be tried in San Francisco, where he would stand as good a chance as the Chinamen. Captain Healy told the consul that he *must* help him, — that was what he was there for. So he furnished him with Chinese lawbooks in English and an interpreter, as no English-speaking counsel could be obtained.

Captain Healy went to studying law for himself. He went into the court hoping, almost against hope, that he could get the case tried in the United States. He told his story, with his crew for witnesses, and made such a good showing that he won the case. The consul had been so sure he would lose that he had gone bondsman for the junkman. When the junkman suspected how the case might go, he skipped, and left the consul to pay the costs.

## AN OLD COOMBS HOMESTEAD.

Oh, the old house at home, where my forefathers dwelt,  
Where a child at the feet of my mother I knelt,  
Where she taught me that prayer, and she read me that page,  
Which, in infancy lisped, is the solace of age.  
Oh, my heart, 'mid all changes, where'er I may roam,  
Shall ne'er lose its love for the old house at home.

Such an old home was the one shown in the picture opposite. The main building was built "somewhere about 1805-10," and was torn down only a few years ago to make room for a new structure. It enjoys the distinction of having been built on a part of the original "Alester" Coombs's purchase, and has been in the possession of one Coombs family ever since they settled here, nearly two hundred years ago, the farm of 100 acres having been passed down from one generation to another.

The lady holding the horse is a fine specimen of our self-reliant American womanhood. Having proposed a drive, she has caught the horse for that purpose. She is not "dressed up" now, but when she comes out a little later you will be prouder than ever of her, especially when you know that she is a Coombs, and has a good ancestry, as will be shown by the following:

Consider Thomas Coombs, the father of this family, was born in Brunswick, Me., October 20, 1834, and died July 28, 1893. He married Emily H. Appleby, daughter of Nathaniel and Rachael (Temple) Appleby. He was educated in the country schools, Litchfield Academy, and a seminary in Lewiston, and taught school between terms to pay expenses. He learned the mason's trade, and became a contractor in Auburn, Me.,





“THE OLD HOUSE AT HOME.”



but about 1878, in order to care for his parents, who were growing old, he moved to Brunswick, and while continuing his business as a contractor did some farming on the side.

He was an active Christian, a member of Court Street Baptist Church of Auburn, later transferring his membership to the First Baptist Church of Brunswick, of which church he was elected deacon.

John Asa Coombs, father of Consider, was born in Brunswick, Me., March 15, 1805, and died in Brunswick, May 4, 1884. Olive Pratt, his wife, was born December 30, 1804, and died August 24, 1882. John Coombs was a farmer and blacksmith in his early days, but later learned the mason's trade, which he followed more or less until his death. He always lived on the farm, however, and died there. Although he was rather wild in his youth, he reformed when the Washingtonian Movement swept the country. From that date he worked actively in the interest of temperance, gaining quite a reputation as a speaker, and was in demand as such in his part of the state. He was an active Christian, noted for his wit, hospitality, and charity, and he organized several temperance societies in near-by cities. He was an all-round "handy man" at anything from cobbling shoes to building a house. What his politics were in his early days is not known, but he voted for Lincoln for President and was a republican thereafter.

Asa Coombs, father of John Asa, was a soldier of the Revolution, a farmer and a blacksmith, and a brother of Lieutenant Joseph, who swam the river in winter time to win his bride. He was also a son of that trusty old deacon, George Coombs, on whom the church placed the duty of rapping on the side of the pew with a rattan

to wake up the tired brethren who could not survive the long sermons of that day.

The father of Deacon George was Peter, who was the first one of Anthony's sons to come to New Meadows, and who soon became the largest owner of the original purchase. So you see that this family have a good vigorous, Christian ancestry.

## CHAPTER X. A LAST WORD.

My task is now done, and I come for a little family talk before I bid you farewell. The work has been arduous, though interesting. Others might have done it better, but others, perhaps, never would have attempted it. If it shall prove satisfying to the present generation, and an inspiration to worthy living for them and our children, I shall be satisfied.

I have worked hard to dig out the facts concerning our ancestors and their mode of living, and tried to present them so that you might see them as they really were. I have tried to be brief in stating them, for this is a busy age and men do not want too many details. If sometimes I have departed from the dignified style of the historian, please grant me your indulgence, bearing in mind that this is a family talk.

It would be too much to expect that no mistakes have been made. Those who have had experience know how unreliable tradition sometimes becomes. Information furnished me was often ambiguous and even incorrect, and some handwriting is so peculiar that, even after much study, the meaning has to be guessed at. With the mass of material at hand for comparison, I was able to correct many errors. I can only say I did the best I could with the material furnished me, and hope the errors are few and insignificant.

Some will say, on reading of our remote ancestors, "That is not the way it was always told me." No doubt of it. All the stories told to account for the beginning of the family in this country could not possibly be true. Our good grandfathers told truthfully as

far as their knowledge went, but beyond that they resorted to theories and speculation. The next generation accepted and perhaps told these theories and speculations for facts. But having in my possession the most complete tradition, which was committed to writing some seventy-five years ago, — and writing does not change, — and having gathered about all the traditions and facts that are in existence, I am satisfied that I have given the history substantially as it is.

There is one point on which I failed to get the positive proof that I wanted, and that is that the Rev. Robert Gutch was the third one of the party who, with "Alister" Coombs and Thomas Stevens, were associated together in the purchase of the land from the Indians. But there is no other one who fits in and fills the requirements of the tradition. I have made a thorough study of the early settlers there, and am thoroughly satisfied that Gutch was that third one. It was not Thomas Purchase, for he settled there too early, — in 1828. It was not Alexander Thwait, for the same reason. It was not Christopher Lawson, who bought 1000 acres north of the Gutch purchase in 1667, for he had no connection with the others, nor with the founding of the town. The History of Bath says of those early days, "The principal settlement was on the New Meadows River, and the principal business building vessels and running mills." The settlement was afterwards transferred to the Kennebec, probably for the better accommodation of the ship-building interests.

Robert Gutch was from Salem, and after leaving Maine the affiliations of Anthony Coombs were with Salem and vicinity for twenty years or more. Though the proof is of a negative character, I am thoroughly

satisfied that the Rev. Robert Gutch was that third member of the party, the patron and adviser of young Coombs; that his wife was the one who "mothered" the lonely French lad, and the one whose kindness Anthony tried so hard to repay.

And how have I found the Coombs family? With a clean record. Generally good, peaceable, energetic citizens, good people to have in a community. No serious offense against society has ever been laid to their charge. While we can boast of no very great men, or great deeds performed, the family has shown a high average in citizenship, morality, and intelligence. They have never been place-seekers, having much of that feeling that General Grant said he had, — that it was not right to press one's self into a place to which he was not called, — yet they appreciate highly the approval of their fellow-men when they have succeeded in their calling.

Religiously, as I have elsewhere stated, those who are church members are generally of the Baptist faith. Where they are not church members, they have generally swung to the opposite extreme of unorthodoxy. To such I wish to leave this parting word: I am not a preacher of the Gospel; only a plain farmer who has given much thought and study to the Bible and to what is the will of the Great Creator who brought us into existence. You have not found in the Bible and in Christianity what you think ought to be there. Perhaps this is because you have not understood. You are viewing these things, not from God's standpoint, but from your own. There is in the Coombs mind a large degree of independence of thought, an unwillingness to accept anything merely on another man's opinion. You want a deeper foundation for your belief. If you are

honest in this, I want to say that the Almighty has an appreciation for such a man when he becomes willing to be taught. Remember the assurance that Jesus gave when he said, "If any man willeth to do his will, he *shall know* of the teaching, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." For the honest doubter there is hope, but be sure that you are an honest doubter, and not culpably self-willed.

Are family characteristics perpetuated? Undoubtedly they are, but not by any rule by which they can be computed with mathematical certainty. Yet there is a tendency governing heredity which I sometimes illustrate with the following formula: Let  $q$  represent a certain type of character in the male ancestor, and  $r$  and  $s$ , his ancestors. Let  $a$  represent the type of character of the female ancestor, and  $b$  and  $c$ , her ancestors. Naturally, one would expect the offspring to be represented by the combination  $qa$ . But such is not the rule. Sometimes the characteristics of the male will predominate, and it will be represented by the combination  $qqa$ , or the female will predominate and it will be represented by  $aaq$ , or the more or less remote ancestors will mix in, and the resultant character will be represented by  $qr$ , or  $ab$ , or  $rra$ , or  $r$ ,  $s$ ,  $b$ , or  $c$ , almost pure. Commonly, the initial characters represented by  $q$  and  $a$  reappear, and they continue down the line. The frequency with which they reappear depends on what stock-breeders call "prepotency," or the power to perpetuate their characteristics. For we must remember that in this flesh-and-blood life which we live here we are only on the highest level of the animal plane.

Now that I have introduced you to one another, cultivate the family feeling and a family pride. It will be



an encouragement to you and your children. Get acquainted, correspond with one another, — if possible, visit one another. Exchange views, tell your experiences, your surroundings, how and where you live. Maintain, and, if possible, elevate the standard of life in the family. Seek to live, not so much for the approval of men as of him to whom this earth is but a footstool, and who holds the destinies of the greatest of earth's great men in his hands, and remember that he has promised the gift of eternal life to those who do his will here, by placing themselves under his son, Jesus the Christ, the rightful prince of this world.

Finally, I bring my good wife and myself to say a last farewell. For more than forty years we have walked hand in hand, and have fought life's battles together. Lots of comfort and good cheer has she brought into my life, for which I am grateful. She is a great-granddaughter of Rev. John Corbly, a Baptist minister who preached the Gospel in western Pennsylvania in those perilous days when men went to church with a rifle in one hand and Bible and hymn-book in the other. One bright Sabbath morning he, with his family, was on his way to the fort, where he was to preach. While returning to the house for a forgotten Bible, a party of spying Indians, seeing their opportunity, rushed upon the family, killed the wife and three children, leaving two others — daughters — scalped and bleeding. One of these lived to be twenty-one years old, but died from the scalp wound. The other recovered, raised a large family, and died at a good old age. A son, John, with the help of his faithful dog, escaped. He also became a Baptist minister, and settled near Cincinnati, Ohio.

We were young once, but now her hair and mine is "silvered o'er" and they begin to call us "the old folks." But we are lovers yet, and we are determined to enjoy all the good cheer that our kind Heavenly Father gives us, to be young in heart and spirit, and if these bodies do grow old and too feeble to be usefully employed, we will try to enjoy seeing others do the world's work, while we wait in confident hope of something better beyond. Farewell.

WM. C. AND SARAH A. COOMBS.



WILLIAM C. AND SARAH A. COOMBS



## PART III.

### GENEALOGIES.

In preparing these genealogical lists an original method has been followed, which has the advantage of keeping families, as well as generations, together, and saves the necessity of marking every name with an exponent to indicate the generation. It has the minor disadvantage of some repetition. Make yourself familiar with the method; then you will have no difficulty in tracing the lists.

You will see that ancestor Anthony, his children and grandchildren, are given first. Then all lines that are traced down to the present time are grouped under the sons of Anthony, and in the order of their birth. For example, all the descendants of the first son, Peter, are given first; then those of the second son, Anthony, are given next, and so on.

In carrying out the various lines, heads of families are given in SMALL CAPITALS. Under these are given all minor notices, but longer sketches are referred to and given under their proper heading. Below this are given the children, with birth dates only in most cases.

All of these children who are known to have families are carried forward and made heads of families in the next generation. This process is repeated down to the present time.

The family has been prolific, and of course it was an impossibility to gather all the names, either of the dead or the living, but one or more lines have been traced from each of the sons, so that those now living, by

tracing their ancestry back only a few generations, can find their ancestor named in one of these lists. Private records, church records, public records of births, deaths, marriages, settlement of estates, etc., are generally accessible, and can be found by those on the ground much more easily, and with less expense, than by the slow method of correspondence.

Most people can give their ancestry, from memory, no farther than their grandfathers, and I have given quite a list of unattached families who were unable to give me sufficient information to enable me to place them. These can trace their lines back if they choose to do so.

The usual abbreviations have been used. Where an exponent is used to indicate the generation it begins with ancestor Anthony, thus: Anthony<sup>1</sup>, Peter<sup>2</sup>; b. is for born, m. married, d. died, ch. child or children, dau. daughter, bpd. baptized, occ. occupation, res. residence, etc. Names in parentheses trace the line backward.

Here is shown the parentage of more than one thousand of the descendants of Anthony Coombs, in which one or more lines are traced through each of his five sons, down to the present time. Can you doubt that he is our ancestor?

Tradition says that he, with two others, bought land of the Indians in Maine; that he took a Scotch name; that one of his associates was Thomas Stevens. A deed from the Indians to Thomas Stevens mentions the land of "Alester" Coombs lying south of his. After Anthony's death, four of his sons returned to this land and laid claim to it. Can you doubt that "Alester" and Anthony were one?

A conservative estimate would be that the descendants of Anthony and Dorcas Coombs, living and dead, would number at least ten thousand.

*The First Generation.*

ANTHONY COOMBS, b. about 1642, in France; m. Feb. 5, 1688, Dorcas Wooden, at York, Me.

Mary, bpd. Sept. 3, 1689, at Salem, Mass.

Peter, bpd. Aug. 18, 1691, " " "

Tabitha, bpd. 1693, " Wenham, "

Anthony, 1695, " " "

There is said to have been one John who died in infancy.

John (2d), b. Mar. 18, 1699, at Rochester, Mass.

Hannah, b. Nov. 30, 1700, " " "

Rosanna, b. Nov. 23, 1702, " " "

Ithamer, b. Nov. 20, 1704, " " "

Joshua, b. July 23, 1706, " " "

Francis(dau.) b. July 20, 1708, " " "

Jane, b. Mar. 29, 1710, " " "

*The Second Generation and their Children of the Third.*

MARY, bpd. Sept. 3, 1689; m. May 20, 1708, at Rochester, Thomas Raymond of Beverly.

Thomas	}	bpd. at First Parish Church, Sept. 14,
Mary		1686 (?), as children of Thomas Raymond and Mary Coombs of Rochester.

Jonathan, bpd. at same church, as child of Thomas and Mary Raymond, May 22, 1686.

Abigail, bpd. July 29, 1688, as child of same.

Josiah, bpd. June 15, 1690, " " " "

Mehetable, bpd. Aug. 23, 1691, " " " "

Sarah, bpd. Nov. 19, 1693, " " " "

I give this just as I find it, as a sample of the difficulties of the genealogist. These are, without doubt, the children of Thomas Raymond of Beverly and Mary Coombs of Rochester, but it is evident that some careless copyist has taken the wrong dates. I have applied to the officers of that church, but no solution of the problem has been given by them.

PETER, bpd. Aug. 18, 1691; m. Joanna Hodgkins, at Gloucester, Mass.; d. Jan. (var. ) 1768, as shown by church record and gravestone at New Meadows.

George.

Peter.

Samuel.

Caleb.

Abigail, who married, Oct. 23, 1757, John Jordan of Brunswick.

TABITHA, bpd. 1693, who may be the same as Abigail, who married Thomas Berry, and who had at least one child, Abigail, who married her cousin, George Coombs.

ANTHONY, bpd. 1695; m. Oct. 22, 1722, Mercy Hodgkins (by Rev. John White).

Hannah, b. Aug. 27, 1727, at Gloucester.

Anthony, b. July 28, 1729, at Falmouth (Portland).

Sylvanus, b. April 6, 1731, " " "

Dorcas, b. July 4, 1733, " " "

Mercy, b. July 3, 1735, " " "

John, b. Mar. 1, 1738, " " "

Probably { Reuben }  
              { Charity } b. at Gloucester, 1722-27.

" Francis, who settled in Bath.



JOHN, b. Mar. 18, 1699; m. Jan. 9, 1723-1724, Lydia Wooden, dau. of Peter Wooden, at Rochester.

(Elizabeth), b. Oct. 8, 1725.

(Anthony), b. June 24, 1727.

Emme, b. Sept. 2, 1729.

(John), b. Mar. 22, 173-.

(Elizabeth), b. April 6, 1734.

Lydia, b. Feb. 25, 1735.

Charity, b. Oct. 11, 1737.

Anthony, b. Feb. 14, 1739.

John, b. June 8, 1741.

Joseph, b. Oct. 5, 1743.

Elizabeth, b. June 5, 1745.

Those in parentheses probably died young, as their names are repeated in the family. These were all recorded at Rochester, Mass.

HANNAH, b. Nov. 30, 1700; m. June 24, 1729, Nicholas Hicks, at Rochester.

No record of children has been found.

ROSANNA, b. Nov. 23, 1702; m. Jan. 21, 1722-1723, Nathaniel Whitcomb, at Rochester; d. Mar. 8, 1737.

Johannah, b. June 6, 1725.

Mary, b. Oct. 9, 1727.

Dorcas, b. Mar. 8, 1729.

Nathaniel, b. May 26, 1732.

Rosillah, b. Feb. 19, 1733-1734.

Asa, b. Feb. 29, 1736.

John, b. Feb. 14, 1737.

After a record of her death, follows this record:

By his wife Phoebe:

Lott, b. May 2, 1739.

Content, b. Oct. 27, 1740.

ITHAMER, b. Nov. 20, 1704, at Rochester, Mass; m. Nov. 4, 1731, Hannah Andrews.

Elnathan, b. June 10, 1732.

Chloe, b. June 20, 1734.

Ithamer, b. Feb. 29, 1735-1736.

Simeon, b. Mar. 19, 1738.

Hannah, b. June 6, 1740.

Priscilla, b. Nov. 1, 1742.

Burnice, b. Sept. 19, 1744.

Abia (dau.), b. Oct. 1, 1746.

Stephen, b. Mar. 12, 1749.

Benjamin, b. " " "

Caleb, b. May , 1751.

These were all born at Rochester.

JOSHUA, b. July 23, 1706, at Rochester, Mass.; m. Sept. 10, 1729, Elizabeth Pratt.

She was the daughter of Eleazer, who was son of Benaya, son of Joshua Pratt, who came over in the "Ann," the third ship to come over in 1623. He was quite an important man in Plymouth Colony.

Joshua was a shoemaker by trade, though he is said to have engaged in building mills, with his brother John, in later life. One or more of his children were born at Rochester, but the most of them were born at Newburyport. He left this place about 1751 and settled on New Meadows River, where he is said to have bought land near Foster's Point. His will was probated at Bath, 1789.

Elizabeth, b. Feb. 23, 1731, at Rochester, Mass.

Joshua, b. June 11, 1737, at Newburyport (?).

Stephen, b. April 1, 1739, " " "

Daniel, b. July 25, 1741, " " "

Mary, b. Feb. 27, 1743, at Newburyport (?).  
 Sarah, b. Mar. 24, 1745, " " "  
 Ebenezer, b. Jan. 31, 1747, at Newburyport.  
 John, b. Nov. 11, 1748, who lost one thumb.  
 Jacob, b. June 12, 1751, lived in Boston and had  
 a family.

FRANCIS, b. July 20, 1708, at Rochester, Mass.; m. April  
 15, 1729, James Pratt of Middleboro.  
 No record of children has as yet been found.

JANE, b. Mar. 29, 1710.

No record of marriage or children found. As Joshua  
 considered himself as "the youngest son and next to the  
 youngest child," it is probable that she did not live long.

Anthony Coombs, b. May, 1739, at Dorchester, who  
 married Mary Snow of Harpswell, and who died in  
 1818, evidently had the family name, and may have  
 been the son of Peter. There is no place for him in the  
 family of either of the others.

#### DESCENDANTS OF PETER.

##### LINE OF GEORGE<sup>3</sup> (PETER<sup>2</sup>, ANTHONY<sup>1</sup>).

##### *The Third Generation and their Children of the Fourth.*

GEORGE, b. probably at Gloucester, Mass.; m. Abigail  
 Berry, a cousin.

Peter, a mute, known as "dumb Peter."

George, m. — Parsley. Had five sons and six  
 daughters. Settled in Bath.

Asa, m. — Thomas. (See line of Asa<sup>4</sup>.)

Joseph (Lieut.). (See Penobscot group and line of  
 Lieut. Joseph<sup>4</sup>.)

Thomas, m. — Coombs. Had four sons and three  
 daughters. Settled in Whitefield, Me.

Joanna, m. — Coombs. Had four sons and three daughters. Resided at Portland.

Abigail, m. Lieut. Thomas Berry, Feb. 16, 1773. Resided at Portland.

Betsy, m. — Cowing. Resided at Lisbon, Me.

Isabella, m. — Donahue. Resided at Brunswick.

LINE OF LIEUT. JOSEPH<sup>4</sup> (GEORGE<sup>3</sup>, PETER<sup>2</sup>, ANTHONY<sup>1</sup>).

*The Fourth Generation and their Children of the Fifth.*

LIEUT. JOSEPH<sup>4</sup>, b. Mar. 10, 1752, at Brunswick, Me.; m. June 6, 1776, Elizabeth Gamble.

Capt. Archibald G., b. June 4, 1777.

Capt. Joseph, b. June 3, 1779; m. Feb. 2, 1809; d. June 22, 1841. Resided at South Thomaston.

Isabella, b. April 9, 1781; m. Hezekiah Prince, Esq.; d. Dec. 2, 1840. Res. at South Thomaston.

Col. George, b. Dec. 19, 1783 or 1785.

Elizabeth, b. Nov. 18, 1787; m. James Dow. Lived and died at South Thomaston.

Nancy, b. Dec. 31, 1789; m. Capt. Samuel Fuller. Was the chief, and sometimes the only, milliner for more than fifty years in South Thomaston.

Abigail, b. Jan. 10, 1792; m. Joseph Berry; d. July 9, 1845. Lived at South Thomaston.

Washington, b. May 18, 1794; d. Mar. 18, 1797.

Asa, b. Aug. 28, 1796.

*The Fifth Generation and their Children of the Sixth.*

CAPT. ARCHIBALD G. (son of Lieut. Joseph Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. June 4, 1777; m. Nancy Mingerson Mar. 28, 1798; d. Oct. 28, 1818. Resided at South Thomaston, and was lost at sea with the sloop "Asa."

Henry, b. April 24, 1798; d. Mar. 24, 1825, on the coast of Africa.

George W., b. June 7, 1800.

Archibald G., b. April 15, 1802; d. Oct. 28, 1818.

Lost at sea with his father.

Joseph, b. Nov. 8, 1804. Removed to Illinois.

Nancy, b. Sept. 17, 1807; m. Atwood Levansaler; d. Dec. 8, 1862.

Capt. John M., b. Sept. 3, 1809.

Isabella P., b. July 18, 1811.

COL. GEORGE (son of Lieut. Joseph Coombs, b. Dec. 19, 1783 or 1785; m. Nov. 19, 1808, Rebecca, dau. of Dr. Oliver Mann of Castine.

George, b. Jan. 6, 1810. Res. at South Thomaston; a truckman.

Oliver M., b. Feb. 21, and d. May 8, 1811.

Perez M., b. Mar. 22, 1812; m. Oct. 19, 1841, Eliza Administer of Lynn, Mass.

Hezekiah P., b. Sept. 1, 1813.

Lucy, b. Aug. 17, 1815; m. Capt. Richard Hayden. Res. at South Thomaston.

Elizabeth G., b. May 21, 1817; m. Capt. Sylvester Healy. Res. at South Thomaston.

Archibald G., b. Dec. 22, 1818.

Lucretia M., b. April 22, 1822; m. Edward Long.

Rebecca, b. Sept. 30, 1823; m. Sept. 15, 1844.

ASA (son of Lieut. Joseph Coombs), b. Aug. 28, 1796; m. Dec. 23, 1823, Lucretia Mann. Resided at South Thomaston; was farmer, trader, lighthouse-keeper, etc.

Mary, b. Mar. 17, 1824; d. Sept. 14, 1826.

Asa F., b. Aug. 17, 1825.

Oliver, b. May 17, 1827. Res. in California.  
Eliza P., b. May 17, 1827; m. Charles G. Snelling.  
Abby, b. May 21, 1829; m. Frank Parker.  
Samuel F., b. April 16, 1831; m. Oct. 1, 1854,  
Rachel Boyd. Removed to Seattle, Wash.  
Thomas P., b. Nov. 8, 1836.

*The Sixth Generation and their Children of the  
Seventh.*

GEORGE W. (son of Capt. Archibald G. Coombs), b. June  
7, 1800; m. Elsie Haskell. Res. at South Thomaston.  
A farmer.

— d. April 15, 1826.

Caroline M., b. Mar. 13, 1828; d. Nov. 22, 1846.

Capt. Joseph A., b. about 1832. Lost with his  
vessel, the schooner "Leo," Dec. 1862.

Francis T., b. about 1832; m. May 13, 1862, Ellen  
Duncan; res. at South Thomaston; entered  
United States Navy.

William H., b. about 1835. Res. at South Thomas-  
ton; a joiner.

CAPT. JOHN M. (son of Capt. Archibald G. Coombs), b.  
Sept. 3, 1809; m. (1st) August 17, 1837, Almeda Litch-  
field; (2d) Sept. 29, 1845, Matilda P. Litchfield. Res.  
at South Thomaston, and died "out South."

Helen A., b. April 2, 1839; m. Julius Litchfield;  
d. April 19, 1859.

John H., b. July 9, 1841. Res. at Boston.

N. Almeda. Res. at Brewer.

HEZEKIAH P. (son of Col. George Coombs), b. Sept. 1,  
1813; m. Aug. 14, 1842, Lucinda Spofford; d. April  
28, 1853. Began to learn the printer's trade at Thomas-

ton in 1828. Went on a whaling voyage. Resided at Thomaston, and was publisher of "The Recorder," register of deeds, etc.

Charles Spofford, b. Mar. 16, 1844. Now residing at South Thomaston, Me.

ARCHIBALD G. (son of Col. George Coombs), b. Dec. 22, 1818; m. July 24, 1839, Harriet Kelloch.

Oscar Dunreath, b. April 4, 1843, at South Thomaston, Me.; m. June 14, 1893, Mrs. Mary E. Pinney. Lived on a homestead in Nebraska and later moved to Laporte, Ind., where he now lives. Mingerson, b. 1845.

Archibald, b. Jan. 1846; d. Oct. 27, 1847.

Esther L., b. July, 1848; d. Sept. 1850.

ASA F. (son of Asa Coombs), b. Aug. 17, 1825, at South Thomaston, Me.; m. Dec. 24, 1863, Iraett Gillman Sweetland. Res. at San Francisco, Cal., 1851-1853; at South Thomaston 1853-; now at Stone Mountain, Ga. A carpenter.

Fred Dow, b. Dec. 18, 1864.

Lizzie, b. Sept., 1872; d. Dec. 1872.

THOMAS P. (son of Asa Coombs), b. Nov. 8, 1836. Res. at South Thomaston. A stone-cutter.

Lucretia May, b. Jan. 28, 1876.

Elvie Isabel, b. Nov. 2, 1878.

### *The Seventh Generation and their Children of the Eighth.*

MINGERSON (son of Archibald G. Coombs), b. 1845, at South Thomaston, Me.; m. 1882, Nellie Rowell. Resided at Laporte county, Ind., 1857-1869; Benton

Harbor, Mich., 1869-1873; Valley, Neb., 1837-1913.  
P.O. address, Ord, Neb.; occ. merchant.

Ralph William, b. 1885; d. 1895.

Archibald Kelloch, b. 1892.

LUCRETIA MAY (dau. of Thomas P. Coombs), b. Jan. 28, 1876; m. Oct. 16, 1907, William J. Thayer.

Lucretia Mann, b. May 6, 1911.

ELVIE ISABEL (dau. of Thomas P. Coombs), b. Nov. 2, 1878, at South Thomaston, Me.; m. April 18, 1906, Bernard Schmitz. Res. since 1906 at Chicago, Ill. Address, 2052 Dayton street.

FRED DOW (son of Asa F. Coombs), b. Dec. 18, 1864, at South Thomaston, Me.; m. Sept. 25, 1889, Lilla G. Butler; d. July 11, 1894. He resided at South Thomaston 1864-1887; Tacoma, Wash., 1887-1889; South Thomaston, 1889-1894. Was by occupation a book keeper.

Ralph O., b. Aug. 12, 1890; d. July 11, 1891.

Victoria J., b. May 7, 1892.

Harold E., b. Oct. 8, 1893.

LINE OF ASA<sup>4</sup> (GEORGE<sup>3</sup>, PETER<sup>2</sup>, ANTHONY<sup>1</sup>).

ASA<sup>4</sup>, m. — Thomas. By occupation a blacksmith and farmer, and served in the Revolutionary War.

Asa.

Prince.

John A., b. Mar. 15, 1805.

Charles.

America Brewster.

The order of birth is not certain.



*The Fifth Generation and their Children of the Sixth.*

JOHN ASA (son of Asa Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. Mar. 15, 1805, at Brunswick; m. Olive Pratt, Dec. 28, 1830. Lived on the old home place at New Meadows, and was a great temperance worker (see sketch).

Consider Thomas, b. Oct. 20, 1834.

William A., b. 1839.

Sarah.

Abigail, m. a Booker.

Adelaide, m. a Townsend.

AMERICA BREWSTER (son of Asa Coombs<sup>4</sup>), m. Lucy A. Winslow.

Charles Albert, b. Oct. 17, 1836.

Thomas A., resides in Bath.

Aphia A., m. Samuel S. Jordan of Bath.

*The Sixth Generation and their Children of the Seventh.*

CONSIDER THOMAS (son of John Asa Coombs), b. Oct. 20, 1834; m. Emily H. Appleby, June 20, 1869; d. July 28, 1893 (see sketch).

Everett E., b. Feb. 6, 1871.

George Appleby, b. Mar. 4, 1874, at Auburn, Me.

Clara Mabel, b. July 14, 1877.

WILLIAM ASA (son of John Asa Coombs), b. 1839, at East Brunswick, Me.; m. (1st) July 22, 1860, Mary Gatchell. Res. Foxboro, Mass.; occ. contracting mason.

William Ferdinand, b. Nov. 11, 1861.

Philip Ellsworth, b. 1863.

Edwin Eugene, b. 1865.

Vina May, b. 1867.

Amy Maud, b. 1869.

M. (2d) — Chase.

SARAH (dau. of John Asa Coombs), m. Oscar Norris.  
Abbie Alice, b. Dec. 6, 1857.

CHARLES ALBERT (son of America Brewster Coombs),  
b. Oct. 17, 1836, at Brunswick, Me.; m. July 29, 1866,  
Mary E. Corwin. Res. 870 Washington street, Bath,  
Me.; occ. railroad superintendent and manager; now  
retired. Enlisted April, 1861, in the military service  
of the United States; wounded June 1, 1862, at the  
battle of Fair Oaks; was taken to Davis Island, N. Y.,  
and discharged Jan. 27, 1863.

Fred C., b. Nov. 9, 1867; d. Aug. 5, 1888.

Grace Louise, b. Jan. 31, 1872.

Clara May, b. Sept. 26, 1875.

*The Seventh Generation and their Children of the  
Eighth.*

ABBIE ALICE NORRIS (dau. of Sarah Coombs Norris),  
b. Dec. 6, 1857; m. Nov. 25, 1874, William Bartlett  
Palmer. Res. Bath, Me.

Marion Wallace, b. Mar. 12, 1876.

Anna Maria, b. July 10, 1879.

Mary Elizabeth, b. Oct. 17, 1880.

William Bartlett, b. Oct. 24, 1887.

Ray Eaton, b. Feb. 27, 1891.

EVERETT E. (son of Consider Thomas Coombs), b. Feb.  
6, 1871. Res. Brunswick, Me.; occ. farmer and mason.

GEORGE APPLEBY (son of Consider Thomas Coombs),  
b. Mar. 4, 1874, at Auburn, Me.; m. Oct. 25, 1911,  
Georgia Hill Brown. Res. Augusta, Me.; occ. phy-  
sician; office, Opera House Block.

CLARA MABEL (daugh. of Consider Thomas Coombs), b.  
July 14, 1877; m. Oct. 31, 1903, Sidney W. Holbrook.  
Res. Brunswick, Me.  
Marjorie Emily, b. June 21, 1908.

#### DESCENDANTS OF ANTHONY<sup>2</sup>.

There is some uncertainty about this line. Anthony<sup>2</sup> is known to have bought land on New Meadows River in 1740-1747-1751. He, with two sons, Sylvanus and Anthony, signed a petition as residents of the Kennebec region as late as 1755. After this I find no trace of his descendants there.

There is a tradition of three brothers, "Frenchmen," one of whom, Francis, settled at Bath, another, Sylvanus, settled at Bristol, east of Bath, while the third, Anthony, "went east." An examination of the family record of Anthony<sup>2</sup> does not show any son Francis, but, on account of his frequent removals, it is very probable that there were several births that were not recorded. Sylvanus, born 1731, could easily have been the one who went to Bristol, and Anthony, born 1729, could have been the one who moved from New Meadows and settled at Islesboro, at the mouth of the Penobscot. He was town officer there in 1789. He is said to have died there in 1815, at the age of one hundred years. This is probably an exaggeration of his age, as there was no Anthony of that generation on record as born at so early a date, and none possible, unless a child of Peter, the date of whose marriage is unknown. Peter's wife was a sister of the wife of Anthony, who was married in 1722. I think it almost certain that these three were the sons of Anthony<sup>2</sup>, and have carried out several lines

on that theory, with this warning as to uncertainty.  
The main line is as follows:

Francis,  
Anthony, } sons of Anthony<sup>2</sup>.  
Sylvanus, }

#### LINE OF ANTHONY<sup>3</sup>.

ANTHONY<sup>3</sup> (son of Anthony Coombs<sup>2</sup>), b. July 28, 1729, at Falmouth (now Portland); m. Ruth —, who died at Islesboro in 1826; d. 1815, at Islesboro. He removed from New Meadows to Islesboro, and was town officer there in 1789.

Anthony.

Jesse.

Robert, b. about 1755.

Ephraim.

Benjamin.

Jonathan.

---

Two daughters.

#### *The Fourth Generation and their Children of the Fifth.*

ANTHONY<sup>4</sup> (son of Anthony Coombs<sup>3</sup>), m. (probably) Hanna Hallbrook; d. Jan. 8, 1835. Was town officer of Islesboro, Me., 1792–1796, and lived on the second lot below Sabbath Day Harbor.

Abiezer.

Henry B.

Ephraim, b. 1818.

Nancy.

Lois.

Hannah.

Another daughter.

ROBERT<sup>4</sup> (son of Anthony Coombs<sup>3</sup>), b. about 1755.

Robert.

*The Fifth Generation and their Children of the Sixth.*

EPHRAIM (son of Anthony Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. 1818, at Islesboro, Me.; m. Harriet Mathews, who was born in 1822, and died 1888; d. 1844. Lost at sea.

Lucullus Jason, b. Sept. 15, 1843.

Ephraim D., b. Jan. 18, 1845.

ROBERT (son of Robert Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. 1783, at Islesboro.

Said to have lived at Belfast and to have had fourteen children, one of whom was

Robert Hudson, b. July 3, 1828.

*The Sixth Generation and their Children of the Seventh.*

LUCULLUS JASON (son of Ephraim Coombs<sup>5</sup>), b. Sept. 15, 1843, at Lincolnville, Me.; m. 1866, Beulah B. French, b. 1849.

Leonard Raymond, b. 1867.

John Frank, b. Nov. 18, 1874.

EPHRAIM D. (son of Ephraim Coombs<sup>6</sup>), b. Jan. 18, 1845; m. Alma Bragg; d. 1912.

Dora.

Aubrey.

Davis.

ROBERT HUDSON (son of Robert Coombs<sup>5</sup>), b. July 3, 1828, at Islesboro; m. June 11, 1850, Harriet E. Pendleton; d. Nov. 7, 1897, at Belfast.

Walter H., b. Mar. 20, 1851.

Cora J., b. Sept. 18, 1852.

Frank B., b. Dec. 12, 1858.

Charles Robert, b. Mar. 20, 1862.

*The Seventh Generation and their Children of the  
Eighth.*

LEONARD RAYMOND (son of Lucullus Jason Coombs),  
b. 1867; m. Mary Howe.

Raymond.

Ruby.

Colin.

JOHN FRANK (son of Lucullus Jason Coombs), b. Nov.  
18, 1874, at Lincolnville, Me.; m. Nov. 25, 1910,  
Bernice Andrews of Thomaston. Res. Camden, Me.;  
occ. assistant superintendent and clerk of Knox  
Woolen Company.

WALTER HUDSON (son of Robert Hudson Coombs), b.  
Mar. 20, 1851, at Belfast, Me.; m. May 16, 1895, Lulu  
May Treese. Res. Belfast; occ. dealer in antique  
goods.

John Walter, b. Dec. 9, 1903; died when nine  
years old.

Frank Hudson, b. April 14, 1906.

CHARLES ROBERT (son of Robert Hudson Coombs), b.  
Mar. 20, 1862, at Belfast, Me.; m. Sept. 3, 1903,  
Helena C. Mathews. Res. Belfast, Me.; occ. under-  
taker.

Horace M., b. Aug. 20, 1910.

Alice, b. Jan. 6, 1912.

LINE OF SYLVANUS<sup>3</sup> (ANTHONY<sup>2</sup>, ANTHONY<sup>1</sup>).

SYLVANUS, b. April 6, 1731, at Falmouth (now Port-  
land), Me.; m. Mary Williams. Some time later than  
1755 he left New Meadows and settled at Bristol, Me.  
Samuel, b. Jan. 25, 1781.

Richard, who is probably the one who married a Fossett, went to Vassalboro to live and had at least three children, Richard, Cyrus, and a daughter. It is also said that his son Cyrus married a Boyd at Bristol and went to California, where a number of his children are now living.

Mary Jane, who married a Bailey, lived in Bristol, had sons Samuel and Frank, and a daughter, who married a Thompson.

*The Fourth Generation and their Children of the Fifth.*

CAPT. SAMUEL (son of Sylvanus Coombs<sup>2</sup>), b. Jan. 25, 1781; m. — Sproul. Lived at Bristol, Me.; a sea-captain.

Mary Ann, b. Nov. 16, 1812; d. June, 1903.

Emeline, b. Aug. 8, 1815.

James M., b. April 8, 1818.

Hannah.

Martha.

Samuel, b. Feb. 2, 1827.

*The Fifth Generation and their Children of the Sixth.*

EMELINE (dau. of Samuel Coombs), b. Aug. 8, 1815; m. Nelson Fossett; d. May 23, 1899.

Matthew, b. 1836.

Margaret, b. 1838.

Mary, b. 1842.

Emma Jane, b. Feb. 3, 1856.

Three others died in infancy.

CAPT. SAMUEL, JR. (son of Samuel Coombs), b. Feb. 2, 1827; d. Nov. 22, 1904. Lived at Bristol, Me. A sea-captain.

Adellar, b. Sept. 2, 1851.

John Fairfield, b. Sept. 25, 1853.

Charles, b. Oct. 9, 1855.

Horace E., b. Nov. 12, 1857; d. April 27, 1859.

Mary A., b. Feb. 11, 1860; d. Dec. 22, 1860.

Richard F., b. Mar. 15, 1866; d. May 1866.

*The Sixth Generation and their Children of the Seventh.*

MATTHEW FOSSETT (son of Emeline Coombs Fossett), b. 1836. Res. 4350 Washington street, Roslindale, Mass.

Mildred Helen, b. Dec. 2, 1868.

Oscar U., b. Dec. 18, 1870.

Maude R., b. Oct. 25, 1872.

Elnora O. C., b. Oct. 27, 1878.

Margaret P., b. Dec. 3, 1880.

MARGARET FOSSETT (dau. of Emeline Coombs Fossett<sup>5</sup>), b. 1838; m. — Atlee (?)

Edward, b. April 24, 1871.

MARY FOSSETT (dau. of Emeline Coombs Fossett), b. 1842; m. Gordon Merrill Hicks.

Blanchard Fossett, b. Aug. 25, 1872.

Helen, b. Nov. 15, 1878.

Grace Gordon, b. Dec. 18, 1881.

LINE OF ANTHONY, 2d.

This family claim descent from Anthony, but it was neither Anthony<sup>3</sup> nor Anthony<sup>4</sup>, as his children had



different names from either of their families. He was probably a cousin to Anthony<sup>4</sup>, and belonged to the same generation. Assuming this to be the case the line would run as follows:

ANTHONY (2d) (son of one of the sons of Anthony<sup>3</sup>, Anthony<sup>2</sup>, Anthony<sup>1</sup>); m. Annie —. Settled at Vinalhaven, Me.

Christina, who married Andrew Orn.

Sallie, who married Benjamin Merathew.

Susie, who married William Roberts.

Nancy, who married — Shaw.

Hannah, who married Isaac Arey.

William, b. about 1794.

*The Fifth Generation and their Children of the Sixth.*

WILLIAM (son of Anthony (2d) Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. about 1794; m. Martha Ann Brown; d. about 1863, aged 69.

Martha (now dead), who married Thomas Rider.

Julia           “           who married Abijah Gray.

Annie           “           who married Benj. Sylvester.

Louis           “           who married Dota Gray.

Frank Mullen, b. Feb. 5, 1829.

Benjamin R., who married Franknie Blake.

William.

*The Sixth Generation and their Children of the Seventh.*

FRANK MULLEN (son of William Coombs<sup>5</sup>), b. Feb. 5, 1829; m. Sallie Jane Clark.

Margaret, who married Timothy L. Smith.

Benjamin R. (2d).

William.

Frank Willis.

Sarah Jane.

BENJAMIN R. (son of William Coombs<sup>5</sup>), m. F. Blake.

Lewellyn, now dead.

Henry.

Lyford H., who married Alma Devou. No children.

WILLIAM (son of William Coombs<sup>5</sup>), m. Susie Clark.

James Henry, who married Harriet Coombs. No children.

William.

Lydia.

Georgianna, who died young.

Freeman F., who married Addie Colby. No children.

Martha Ann.

*The Seventh Generation and their Children of the Eighth.*

SARAH JANE (dau. of Frank Mullen Coombs), m. —

Robertson.

Minnie, who married — Ames.

Edwin.

Ewing.

Lurana.

Freeman F.

Margaret S.

WILLIAM (son of William Coombs<sup>6</sup>), m. Hattie Brown.

Lillian.

LYDIA (dau. of William Coombs<sup>6</sup>), m. Fred. Brown.

Alick.

William.

MARTHA ANN (dau. of William Coombs<sup>a</sup>), m. Charles Pool.

Charles.

Maude.

Lottie May.

George.

Riley.

Georgianna.

Zelia Augustis.

*The Eighth Generation and their Children of the Ninth.*

FRANK WILLIS, b. Aug. 29, 1875, at Vinalhaven, Me.; m. Sept. 25, 1906, Effie Louise Shepherd. Occ. fisherman.

Howard Milton, b. July 11, 1908.

#### OTHER FAMILIES.

The following, I think, are without doubt descendants of Anthony<sup>2</sup>, and the Anthony who settled at Islesboro, but I have been unable to place them with certainty:

TYLER M. COOMBS, b. April 18, 1865; m. Nov. 28, 1889, Cora L. Lawry. Present address, Vinalhaven, Me.; occ. clerk of courts, Knox county.

Wyvern A. Coombs, b. Oct. 18, 1890.

Anna C. Coombs, b. Sept. 26, 1891.

Cora Maude Coombs, b. Feb. 4, 1893.

Father, David L. Coombs.

Grandfather, Josiah Coombs.

EDWIN L. COOMBS, b. July 4, 1871; m. 1889, Margaret M. Pierce. Present address, Vinalhaven, Me. Resided in Minnesota from 1880 to 1886; occ. blacksmith.

Mrs. Lettie B. Cole.

Georgia M. Coombs.

Glenn L. Coombs.

Father, Eben S. Coombs, who died at Delavan, Minn., in 1880.

Grandfather, William Coombs, who died in Vinalhaven, Me.

LAROE A. COOMBS, b. Jan. 18, 1866, at Vinalhaven, Me.; m. Nov. 13, 1888, Minnie D. Lane. Present address, Belfast, Me., where he has resided since 1903; occ. boat-builder.

Harry Lane Coombs, b. Dec. 13, 1890.

Father, Rufus A. Coombs.

Grandfather, Josiah Coombs.

Great-grandfather, he thinks, was Anthony Coombs.

EARLE CLIFTON COOMBS, b. Nov. 24, 1880, at Vinalhaven, Me.; m. Mar. 21, 1912, Myrtle D. Mills of Vinalhaven. Present residence, Box Elder, Mont.; occ. clerk and farmer.

Father, Eugene Coombs (now dead). Mother, Eliza Spear Coombs.

Grandfather, Lewis Coombs. Grandmother, Almira Coombs (now dead).

All of Vinalhaven, Me.

When eighteen years of age he sailed on the United States transport "Grant," during the Spanish American War, as sailor, transporting soldiers from New York to Manila, then on to San Francisco, and across to New York by rail, thus making a tour of the world. Is now "holding down" a homestead claim in Montana.

DESCENDANTS OF JOHN<sup>2</sup>.

LINE OF ANTHONY<sup>3</sup> (JOHN<sup>1</sup>, ANTHONY<sup>1</sup>).

ANTHONY, b. Feb. 14, 1739, at Rochester, Mass.

John, b. 1770.

Isaac.

Joseph.

Elisha.

Anthony.

*The Fourth Generation and their Children of the Fifth.*

JOHN (son of Anthony Coombs<sup>3</sup>), b. 1770. Lived in Brunswick.

Abner; went to Wisconsin.

Isaiah, who lived in Bath.

Joseph.

John.

ISAAC (son of Anthony Coombs<sup>3</sup>).

William.

Isaac.

JOSEPH (son of Anthony Coombs<sup>4</sup>).

Henry, of Bath.

ELISHA (son of Anthony Coombs<sup>3</sup>).

Isaac, of Bath; died in Boston.

Albert; lived on Great Island; died on Whitby Island, Wash.

James; lived in Bath.

John Henry, b. 1833.

ANTHONY (son of Anthony Coombs<sup>3</sup>).

Anthony Snow.

*The Fifth Generation and their Children of the Sixth.*

JAMES (son of Elisha Coombs).

George Albert, b. Aug. 7, 1859.

JOHN HENRY (son of Elisha Coombs), b. 1833, at Harpswell; d. 1875. Was a soldier in the Union Army.

John Edward, b. Dec. 11, 1866.

ANTHONY SNOW (son of Anthony Coombs<sup>4</sup>).

Anthony Ashford, b. June 14, 1845, at Windsor, Me.

*The Sixth Generation and their Children of the Seventh.*

GEORGE ALBERT (son of James Coombs), b. Aug. 7, 1859, at Bath, Me.; m. Nov. 22, 1879, Helen Jane Tarbox. Res. 40½ Summer street, Bath, Me.; occ. master painter. Member of city council.

Anthony Bradley, b. Sept. 17, 1884, at Bath. A traveling salesman. Address, Bath, Me.

JOHN EDWARD (son of John Henry Coombs), b. Dec. 11, 1866, at Bath, Me.; m. Nov. 25, 1897, Frances T. Strabel. Res. La Manda Park, California; occ. salesman.

Frances Clemence, b. Nov. 25, 1905.

ANTHONY ASHFORD (son of Anthony Snow Coombs), b. June 14, 1845, at Windsor, Me.; m. Nov. 26, 1865, Adelia A. Perkins of Windsor. Res. Palermo, Me.; occ. farmer.

Sarah Elizabeth, b. Oct. 4, 1866.

Charles Anthony, b. Feb. 4, 1869.

Berton Elias, b. Jan. 2, 1872.

*The Seventh Generation and their Children of the  
Eighth.*

BERTON ELIAS (son of Anthony Ashford Coombs), b.  
Jan. 2, 1872, at Windsor, Me.; m. Sept. 1, 1895,  
Susan Nancy Hisler of Palermo. Address, Palermo,  
Me.; occ. farmer.

DESCENDANTS OF ITHAMER<sup>2</sup>.

LINE OF ELNATHAN<sup>3</sup> (ITHAMER<sup>2</sup>, ANTHONY<sup>1</sup>).

ELNATHAN<sup>3</sup>, b. June 10, 1732, at Rochester, Mass.; m.  
Nov. 29, 1761, Mary Taylor of Dartmouth. Children,  
so far as known:

Caleb.

Simeon, born about 1760.

Ithamer.

Elnathan.

Asa, b. November 18, 1779.

*The Fourth Generation and their Children of the  
Fifth.*

CALEB<sup>4</sup> (son of Elnathan Coombs<sup>3</sup>).

Had a son Benjamin, who was a merchant in New  
Bedford, Mass. His sons were said to have been con-  
nected with some banking institution at the same place.

REV. SIMEON<sup>4</sup> (son of Elnathan Coombs<sup>3</sup>), b. about 1760;  
m. June 13, 1782, Experience Millard (Miller) of  
Rochester, daughter of Ensign Miller. She died June,  
1820, and was buried at Middleboro. He died and was  
buried at Hyannis, Mass., where he was preaching.

John, b. Mar. 7, 1783.

Amos, b. April 11, 1785; intention of mar-  
riage Mar. 1, 1807, to Susanna Doty.

Chloe,	b. Mar. 7, 1787.
Elnathan,	b. May 25, 1789.
Huldah,	b. April 15, 1791.
Experience,	b. Oct. 9, 1794.
Simeon,	b. Sept. 28, 1795.
Polly,	b. July 22, 1797.
Stephen,	b. June 30, 1799.
Sally,	b. Dec. 22, 1800.
Hannah,	b. May 24, 1804.
Abigail,	b. July 22, 1805.
Henry Clark,	b. Sept. 3, 1810.

ITHAMER<sup>1</sup> (son of Elnathan Coombs<sup>3</sup>).

Said to have removed to Vermont, and to have had children as follows (see line of Ithamer<sup>4</sup>):

Jethro.

Benjamin.

Tabor.

Peggy.

ELNATHAN<sup>4</sup> (son of Elnathan Coombs<sup>3</sup>).

Lived in New Bedford, Mass., and had a son David.

ASA<sup>4</sup> (son of Elnathan Coombs<sup>3</sup>), b. Nov. 18, 1779; m. June 23, 1802, Abigail Cushman. Had no children. Lived in Rochester, where he died about 1855-1858. His wife died about six years later. He bequeathed his farm there to his nephew, Rev. Henry C. Coombs of Middleboro.

*The Fifth Generation and their Children of the Sixth.*

JOHN<sup>5</sup> (son of Rev. Simeon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. Mar. 7, 1783.

By his first wife he had two children. One son, Addison, died in the Civil War.

By his second wife he had three children.



AMOS (son of Rev. Simeon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. April 11, 1785.  
Lived and died in Rochester. Had one son and two daughters.

CHLOE (dau. of Rev. Simeon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. Mar. 7, 1787;  
m. Jan. 8, 1710, Stillman Clark.

Samuel Stillman, b. Oct. 18, 1810.

Barnabas, b. July 2, 1812.

Judith, b. June 21, 1814.

Simeon Coombs, b. Jan. 29, 1816.

Chloe Coombs, b. June 2, 1818.

Mary Coombs, b. Sept. 20, 1820.

Benj. Franklin.

Olive.

Stephen.

Hannah Jane, b. April 14, 1829.

ELNATHAN (son of Rev. Simeon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. May 25,  
1789; m. Abigail Hinkley (sister of Sally Hinkley).  
Had several children.

HULDAH (dau. of Rev. Simeon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. April 15,  
1791; m. Abijah Briggs. Lived in New York state.  
Had two sons and three daughters.

EXPERIENCE (dau. of Rev. Simeon Coombs), b. Oct. 9,  
1794, at Leverett, Mass.; m. (1st) Elias Parris.

Elias.

Miller.

Stephen.

Mary Annis, who married Horace Sturgis.

M. (2d) Israel Chase, with whom she lived until her  
death at Berkley, Mass.

SIMEON (son of Rev. Simeon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. Sept. 28, 1795,  
at Wardsboro, Vt.; m. Sally Hinkley; d. 1847.

Simeon,                    b. April 13, 1824.  
Levi Hinkley,        b. Sept. 28, 1825.  
Benj. Franklin,    b. Sept. 18 or 19, 1827.  
Joseph Crocker, b. Nov. 28, 1831, and died May 27,  
1896.  
Sarah Crocker, b. June 2, 1835.

POLLY (dau. of Rev. Simeon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. July 22, 1797,  
at Jamaica, Vt.; m. Samuel Ames.

REV. STEPHEN (son of Rev. Simeon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. June  
30, 1799; m. (1st) Lucretia Isham; d. Mar. 11, 1895,  
at Concord, N.H.

Henry Clark,        b. Mar. 11, 1820.

Eliza Ann,           b. Aug. 11, 1824.

Ruth,                b. Jan. 24, 1835.

Stephen Bryson, b.                1837.

M. (2d) Gertrude Bartlett, at Penacook, N.H., b. Dec.  
11, 1808. She was daughter of Daniel Bartlett of  
Hill, N.H.

John Crockett, b. Jan. 22, 1839, at Sanbornton, N.H.

Mary Louisa,    b. Aug. 29, 1840,                “                “

Irving Wesley, b. Oct. 9, 1842.

Martha Hazelton, b. Sept. 17, 1844, at Sanbornton,  
and died at Concord, N.H.

SALLY (dau. of Rev. Simeon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. Dec. 22, 1800,  
at Jamaica, Mass.; m. Dec. 13, 1818, David Childs,  
who was born July 11, 1796; d. Oct. 20, 1853.

Simeon Coombs, b. Oct. 18, 1819.

Josiah G., b. June 23, 1823.

Edward, b. Jan. 22, 1825; m. but no children; d  
Oct. 1871.

David H., b. Sept. 20, 1827.

Augustine F., b. Aug. 9, 1829. Had two daughters and one son.

Julia A., b. Sept. 24, 1831.

James C., b. Mar. 25, 1835; d. Nov. 17, 1835.

Sarah E. J., b. Feb. 27, 1847; m. but no children; d. Aug. 19, 1893.

HANNAH (dau. of Rev. Simeon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. May 24, 1804; m. Mar. 4, 1841, Asa Paul, Jr.; no children.

ABIGAIL (dau. of Rev. Simeon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. July 22, 1805, at Jamaica; m. William Doty.

William, Jr.

Phoebe.

REV. HENRY CLARK (son of Rev. Simeon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. Sept. 3, 1810, at Beechwood, Mass.; m. (1st) Aug. 10, 1836, Caroline Allen White, who, with infant daughter, died Oct. 3, 1837; (2d) Mar. 4, 1839, Martha Pierce Burt, who died Oct. 3, 1898; d. Oct. 27, 1904.

Nancy Maria, b. Feb. 4, 1840; d. Oct. 3, 1894, unmarried.

Caroline White, b. July 10, 1842.

Samuel Henry, b. July 22, 1845.

Julia Adeline, b. June 30, 1847.

Abbie Cushman, b. Sept. 13, 1857.

*The Sixth Generation and their Children of the Seventh.*

JUDITH CLARK (dau. of Chloe Coombs Clark<sup>5</sup>), b. June 21, 1814; m. April 12, 1840, Joseph Warren Keith; d. April 4, 1897.

Henry Coombs, b. May 2, 1841.

Franklin Clark, b. July 7, 1844.

Calvin Russell, b. Feb. 17, 1846; d. April 26, 1849.

Simeon Clark, b. July 16, 1851.

BENJ. FRANKLIN CLARK (son of Chloe Coombs Clark),  
m. Aug. 3, 1865, Jane Sawyer. Probably lived at  
Sandwich, Mass.

Weston Eaton.

Bethiah Stetson.

Calvin Russell.

LEVI HINKLEY (son of Simeon Coombs<sup>s</sup>), b. Sept. 28,  
1825; m. Nov. 26, 1858, Betsy H. Haskins, b. Dec.  
17, 1834; d. Mar., 1903.

Herbert Miller, b. Oct. 11, 1859.

Walter Haskins, b. Jan. 23, 1861; d. Oct. 20, 1862.

Serena Robinson, b. April 23, 1862.

Horace Levi, b. April 27, 1865.

Lillian B., b. Jan. 9, 1867.

Chessman S., b. July 5, 1869.

Ernest E., b. May 22, 1871.

BENJ. FRANKLIN (son of Simeon Coombs<sup>s</sup>), b. Sept. 18  
(or 19), 1827; m. July 6, 1848, Susan Evaline Dean of  
Berkley, Mass., who was born Sept. 20, 1829, and  
died April 20, 1900; d. May 23, 1900.

Isabella Evelyn, b. May 2, 1849.

Lizzie Dean, b. Aug. 26, 1854.

Joseph Simeon, b. Oct. 14, and d. Nov. 17, 1857.

Frank Henry, b. Feb. 23, 1859; d. April 6, 1870.

Joseph Everett, b. May 18, 1861.

Charles Sumner, b. Dec. 14, 1863.

Caroline Matilda, b. Mar. 16, 1872.

Benj. Franklin.

SARAH CROCKER (dau. of Simeon Coombs<sup>2</sup>), b. June 2, 1835; m. Oct. 17, 1860, John Henry Paun. Res. Lakeville, Mass., R. 1, Box 16.

Sarah Ida, b. July 13, 1865.

John Gilbert, b. June 13, 1870.

Isabella Frances, b. Jan. 2, 1872.

Grace Irving, b. June 22, 1874.

SIMEON COOMBS CHILDS (son of Sally Coombs Childs, dau. of Rev. Simeon), b. Oct. 18, 1819.

Sarah Jane.

Drusilla Doane.

Julia Angeline.

Mary Abby.

Edward Williams.

Simeon Coombs.

Everett Patterson.

JOSIAH G. CHILDS (son of Sally Coombs Childs, dau. of Rev. Simeon), b. June 22, 1823; married three times; d. Dec. 13, 1901.

Adulsa. By first wife.

Willie B. By second wife.

Augustine. “

Harriet. “

DAVID H. CHILDS (son of Sally Coombs Childs, dau. of Rev. Simeon), b. Sept. 20, 1827. Had nine children by first wife and four by his second wife. Names not known.

AUGUSTINE F. CHILDS (son of Sally Coombs Childs, dau. of Rev. Simeon), b. Aug. 9, 1829. Had two girls and one boy.

JULIA ADELINE CHILDS (dau. of Sally Coombs Childs, dau. of Rev. Simeon), b. Sept. 24, 1831; m. — Fisher. Has one son, Howard, an ordained minister, who, with his mother, lives at West Mansfield, Mass.

CAROLINE WHITE (dau. of Rev. Henry Clark Coombs), b. July 10, 1842; m. Oct. 20, 1864, John F. Holmes, who died May 9, 1896. She is now living at Middleboro, Mass.

Lena Pierce, b. Jan. 30, 1866; d. May 31, 1900.

Augusta, b. Jan. 24, 1875. Now living at Colorado Springs, Colo.

SAMUEL HENRY (son of Rev. Henry Clark Coombs), b. July 22, 1845; m. Frances E. Russell; d. May 9, 1907 or 1908.

Edward Henry, b. Sept. 16, 1869, at Watertown, Mass.

JULIA ADELINE (dau. of Rev. Henry Clark Coombs), b. June 30, 1847; m. April 23, 1873, Louis K. Harlow, an artist, who died April 30, 1913.

Arthur Brooks, b. May 2, 1874.

Philip, b. 1877; d. Oct. 22, 1883.

Ralph Leroy, b. April 13, 1885.

Marjorie, b. Oct. 7, 1886.

ABBIE CUSHMAN (dau. of Rev. Henry Clark Coombs<sup>a</sup>), b. Sept. 13, 1857; m. Oct. 18, 1883, Charles A. Wood. Ruth Pierce, b. July 14, 1884. Louisa Burt, b. Feb. 9, 1886.

JOHN CROCKETT (son of Rev. Stephen Coombs), b. Jan. 22, 1839, at Sanbornton, N.H.; m. Isabel F. Richards. Alice Gertrude. Grace Irving.

REV. IRVING WESLEY (son of Rev. Stephen Coombs),  
b. Oct. 9, 1842, at Hebron, N.H.; m. Dec. 3, 1873,  
Eliza J. Newhall of Providence, R.I. Ordained as  
Baptist minister at Chatham, Mass., Nov. 2, 1876.

Marie Elizabeth, b. Sept. 15, 1874; m. July 3, 1911,  
Franklin H. Johnson of Lakewood, N.J.

Stephen W., b. May 25, 1877, at Chatham, who  
married, Sept. 14, 1911, Alice Hook of Hopkinton.

John Lewis, b. Oct. 15, 1880, who married, Mar. 26,  
1911, Julia E. Jameson of Tilton.

Gertrude Hazelton, b. Feb. 21, 1885, at Bristol, Vt.,  
who married, Sept. 2, 1912, Rev. Howard Francis  
Rose of Lowell. They are now missionaries in  
the Philippines (at Jaro, Iloilo, Panay).

*The Seventh Generation and their Children of the  
Eighth.*

HENRY COOMBS KEITH (son of Judith Clark Keith), b.  
May 2, 1841; m. June 15, 1862, Theodora Thatcher  
Ashley; d. Feb. 17, 1910.

Harriet Evelyn, b. Mar. 20, 1865.

Dora Ashley, b. Feb. 11, 1867.

Henry Warren, b. Feb. 21, 1872.

SIMEON CLARK KEITH (son of Judith Clark Keith), b.  
July 16, 1851; m. Emmaetta F. Besse; d. Sept. 10,  
1890.

Judith F.

Isabella.

Olive (?).

Paul.

Mary.

Marian Harland, m. Walter Standish. Has three children.

Myra.

Helen.

HERBERT MILLER (son of Levi Hinkley Coombs), b. Oct. 11, 1859; m. July 3, 1884, Laura C. King; d. Jan. 24, 1901.

Florence, b. Jan. 3, 1886.

Herbert S., b. June 8, 1888.

Chessman Elmore, b. Oct. 19, 1892.

James S., b. Aug. 9, 1895.

Luther B., b. Sept. 23, 1896.

SERENA ROBINSON (dau. of Levi Hinkley Coombs), b. April 23, 1862; m. Mar. 26, 1891, James A. Suttie. Has no children. Res. Campello, Mass.

LILLIAN B. (dau. of Levi Hinkley Coombs), b. June 9, 1867; m. Aug. 21, 1889, Arthur B. Griffith. Harold, b. Feb. 8, 1890.

HORACE LEVI (son of Levi Hinkley Coombs), b. April 27, 1865; m. Nov. 26, 1889. Res. Middleboro, Mass. Gertrude Miller, b. Oct. 2, 1890.

CHESSMAN S. (son of Levi Hinkley Coombs), b. July 5, 1869; m. July 1, 1895, Mary H. Merrihew. No children.

ISABELLA EVELYN (dau. of Benjamin Franklin Coombs), b. May 2, 1842; m. Jan. 1, 1867, Charles Albert Davis of Somerset, Mass., who was born Oct. 17, 1842, and died Oct. 26, 1911. P.O. address, R.1., Berkley, Mass. Charles Benjamin, b. Oct. 11, 1867, and died April 9, 1912.



William May,     b. Oct. 11, 1867.  
Frank Simmons, b. Oct. 22, 1877.  
Lizzie Isabella,   b. April 17, 1883.  
Susan Jane,       b. Nov. 1, 1889.  
Sarah Florence,   b. July 27, 1891.

LIZZIE DEAN (dau. of Benjamin Franklin Coombs), b.  
Aug. 26, 1854; m. July 21, 1874, Myron Woodbridge  
French of Fall River.

JOSEPH EVERETT (son of Benjamin Franklin Coombs),  
b. May 18, 1861; m. Mar. 8, 1884, Ruth Ella Chase  
of Berkley, Mass.

Alice Evelyn,       b. May 3, 1885.  
Frank Everett,     b. Aug. 26, 1887.  
Ruth Chase,        b. Jan. 10, 1892.  
Francis Miller,     b. April 12, 1894.  
Joseph Benjamin, b. April 2, 1899; d. Sept. 7,  
1909.  
Carrie Athearne,   b. June 25, 1901.  
Marjorie Dean,     b. Nov. 24, 1913.

CHARLES SUMNER (son of Benjamin Franklin Coombs),  
b. Dec. 14, 1863; m. Dec. 28, 1886, Mary Carnoe  
Evans of Freetown, Mass. P.O. address, 79 Mill  
street, New Bedford, Mass.; occ. newspaper adver-  
tising.

Clifford Evans,   b. Nov. 6, 1887; d. May 9, 1889.  
Charlotte Dean, b. April 25, 1889; d. May 17, 1889.

CAROLINE MATILDA (dau. of Benjamin Franklin Coombs),  
b. Mar. 16, 1866; m. June 3, 1894, Rev. William  
Davis Athearne of Dighton, Mass.

Roy Coombs, b. Mar. 1, 1895.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (son of Benjamin Franklin Coombs),  
b. May 2, 1872; m. July 1, 1906, Clytie Medora French  
of Fall River, Mass. P.O. Assonet, Mass.; occ. fore-  
man in gun shop.

JOHN GILBERT PAUN (son of Sarah Crocker Coombs Paun),  
b. June 13, 1870; m. Aug. 2, 1899, Louisa Lothrop  
Thomas. Res. at Lakeville; P.O. Address, R. 1,  
Box 17, Middleboro, Mass.; occ. civil engineer and  
surveyor.

ISABELLA FRANCES PAUN (dau. of Sarah Crocker Coombs  
Paun), b. Jan. 2, 1872; m. Aug. 19, 1896, Harland  
H. Ryder, rector in Episcopal church. P.O. address,  
Rock, Mass.

Wilson Coombs, b. Oct. 24, 1902.

Margaret Holmes, b. June 1, 1907.

One child was born in Vineyard Haven, and one in  
Nantucket.

EDWARD HENRY (son of Samuel Henry Coombs), b.  
Sept. 15, 1869, at Watertown, Mass. P.O. address,  
37 Russell avenue, Watertown, Mass.; occ. cashier.

ARTHUR BROOKS HARLOW (son of Julia Adeline Coombs  
Harlow), b. May 2, 1874; m. April 9, 1901, Harriet  
Severance. P.O. address, Waban, Mass.; occ. pro-  
prietor Ridge's Food Company.

RALPH LEROY HARLOW (son of Julia Adeline Coombs  
Harlow), b. April 13, 1885; m. Jan., 1911. P.O.  
address, 130 Buckminster road, Brookline, Mass.;  
occ. has charge of the advertising department of  
Filene's Boston store.

MARJORIE HARLOW (dau. of Julia Adeline Coombs Harlow), b. Oct. 7, 1886; m. Robert Bailey.  
Barbara, b. Aug. 31, 1910.

*The Eighth Generation and their Children of the Ninth.*

HARRIET EVELYN KEITH (dau. of Henry Coombs Keith),  
b. Mar. 20, 1865; m. Aug. 22, 1889, John H. Egger.  
P.O. address, 241 Market street, Campello, Mass.

Mildred Keith, b. Dec. 20, 1891.

Dora Ashley, b. Sept. 22, 1893.

Barbara Hendricks, b. Mar. 20, 1898.

Milton Wesley, b. Aug. 18, 1900.

Ruth Evelyn, b. Oct. 28, 1904.

DORA ASHLEY KEITH (dau. of Henry Coombs Keith),  
b. Feb. 11, 1867; m. Sept. 12, 1889, Walter A. Coombs,  
son of Addison Coombs. Address, 12 Southwick  
street, Middleboro, Mass.

HENRY WARREN KEITH (son of Henry Coombs Keith),  
b. Feb. 21, 1872; m. Nov. 28, 1895, Angelina Nichols  
White.

Marjorie White, b. Sept. 1, 1896.

Theodora Thatcher, b. Nov. 4, 1898.

Mary Josephine, b. July 26, 1903.

LINE OF ITHAMER<sup>4</sup> (ELNATHAN<sup>3</sup>, ITHAMER<sup>2</sup>, ANTHONY<sup>1</sup>).

ITHAMER, b. Feb. 16, 1767; m. about 1788 or 1789, Mary  
Taber, who was born June 4, 1771, and died Sept. 4,  
1843; d. July, 1833. Removed from Rochester, Mass.,  
to Jamaica, Vt., about 1804.

Jethro, b. Feb. 14, 1790.

Benjamin, b. Dec. 24, 1791.

Taber, b. Aug. 18, 1794.

Margaret, b. May 25, 1803.

*The Fifth Generation and their Children of the Sixth.*

JETHRO (son of Ithamer Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. Feb. 14, 1790, at Rochester, Mass.; m. Aug. or Sept. 1811, Betsy Gibbs at Jamaica, Vt., who died Aug. 14, 1884; d. Nov. 15, 1876, at Marlboro, N.H.

Asa, b. July 24, 1812.

Aurilla, b. Sept. 10, 1813.

Gilbert D., b. Dec. 21, 1814; d. Aug. 27, 1845, in Georgia.

Mary, b. June 18, 1817.

Tolman Taber, b. June 18, 1818.

Abigail Cushman, b. Feb. 17, 1822.

Phoebe Presson, b. Nov. 11, 1825.

Hortense Elizabeth, b. Sept. 27, 1827.

Martha Ann, b. Dec. 8, 1829; d. April 24, 1848; unmarried.

Marcus Jethro, b. Mar. 7, 1832.

Edmund Gibbs, b. Oct. 30, 1834.

Adelaide Alma, b. April 24, 1839; d. Mar. 24, 1840, at Windham, N.H.

BENJAMIN (son of Ithamer Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. Dec. 24, 1791, at Rochester, Mass.; m. July 4, 1839, Phoebe Underwood; d. June 13, 1841, at Jamaica, Vt. His children born at Jamaica, Vt., were as follows:

Isaac Newton, b. Aug. 23, 1840; d. Jan. 21, 1900.

Almira Amanda, b. Dec. 21, 1841.

TABER (son of Ithamer Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. Aug. 18, 1794, at Rochester, Mass.; m. Mary Jones of Windham, Vt.; d. Sept. 30, 1836, at Londonderry, Vt.

Osmond. Lived and died at Townshend, Vt.

Benjamin.

Ithamer.

Augustus } twins.  
Augusta }

Mary.

MARGARET (PEGGY) (dau. of Ithamer Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. May 25, 1803, at Rochester, Mass.; m. George Hoskins; d. Feb. 7, 1859, in Canada. She had a large family, the most of whom died young.

*The Sixth Generation and their Children of the Seventh.*

ASA (son of Jethro Coombs<sup>3</sup>), b. July 24, 1812, at Jamaica, Vt.; m. (1st) probably Mar. 27, 1849, Mary Sprague of Windham, Vt., who died Mar. 1857, aged 32.

George Asa, b. July 10, 1850.

Fred, b. Feb. 11, 1854.

M. (2d) Nov. 3, 1859, Laura A. Abbott of Windham, Vt.

Mary Jane, b. May, 1861; d. Aug. 1863.

Fannie Maria, b. Feb. 28, 1865, who married Alfred

R. Stebbins of Brookline, Vt. No living children.

Present address, R. 1, Brattleboro, Vt.

AURILLA (dau. of Jethro Coombs<sup>3</sup>), b. Sept. 10, 1813; m. Elijah Farr; d. Jan. 14, 1894, at Sergeant Bluff, Iowa.

A daughter, who died young.

A son, Rev. Gilbert E. Farr. Present address, Fairwater, Wis.

MARY (dau. of Jethro Coombs<sup>s</sup>), b. June 18, 1817, at Jamaica, Vt.; m. Jan. 2, 1840, Lorenzo White of South Londonderry, Vt.

One daughter who died when two years old.

TOLMAN TABER (son of Jethro Coombs<sup>s</sup>), b. June 18, 1818; m. Aug. 1855, Harriet Wright. Served in the Union army.

John Wesley, b. Nov. 19, 1859. Unmarried.

ABIGAIL CUSHMAN (dau. of Jethro Coombs<sup>s</sup>), b. Feb. 17, 1822, at Jamaica, Vt.; m. (1st) Josiah L. Sargeant of Hinsdale, Vt.

Two daughters, who married, but died leaving no children.

M. (2d) about 1890, Amos Baker of Troy, N.H.

PHOEBE P. (dau. of Jethro Coombs<sup>s</sup>), b. Nov. 11, 1825, at Jamaica, Vt.; m. about 1867, William T. Churchill, of Londonderry, Vt.

No children.

HORTENSE ELIZABETH (dau. of Jethro Coombs<sup>s</sup>), b. Sept. 27, 1827; m. about 1864, Nathan Weeks of Grafton, Vt.; d. June 1, 1900.

No children.

MARCUS J. (son of Jethro Coombs<sup>s</sup>), b. Mar. 7, 1832, at Jamaica, Vt.; m. April 15, 1861, Olive Caroline Woodford, who died Mar. 6, 1911. Occ. farmer and mechanic. Resides at Sergeant Bluff, Iowa, where he, in his 80th year, cultivates his five-acre fruit and berry farm with his own hands, and contributes articles to the horticultural press. He is a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mary Almira, b. Feb. 12, 1862; d. Oct. 7, 1865.

Alma Bertha,      b. July 11, 1864; d. Oct. 15, 1865.  
 Lillie May,        b. Jan. 11, 1866.  
 Luther Jethro,    b. Mar. 28, 1871.  
 Charles Franklin, b. Mar. 11, 1874.  
 Bessie Belle,      b. May 16, 1880.

EDMUND GIBBS (son of Jethro Coombs<sup>3</sup>), b. Oct. 30, 1834,  
 at Windham, Vt.; m. Matilda Sedig (Swede) of Sloan,  
 Iowa.

Edmund.

William Churchill.

Martin G., Sergeant Bluff, Iowa.

Nelson, Sloan, Iowa.

ALMIRA AMANDA (dau. of Benjamin Coombs<sup>3</sup>), b. Dec.  
 21, 1841; m. Jan. 16, 1882, Silas Barnes. Res. at  
 South Londonderry, Vt.

OSMOND (son of Taber Coombs<sup>3</sup>), d. at Townshend, Vt.,  
 where he spent his life.

Four children died young.

Mary, who married William Holland.

Carrie, who married Fred Ober.

Both living at Brattleboro, Vt.

BENJAMIN (son of Taber Coombs<sup>3</sup>).

Said to have had seven children.

*The Seventh Generation and their Children of the  
 Eighth.*

GEORGE ASA (son of Asa Coombs<sup>6</sup>), b. July 10, 1850.  
 Places of residence, Hinsdale, N.H., 1869-1874, Ser-  
 geant Bluff, Iowa, 1874-1897, South Londonderry,  
 Vt., 1897, to the present time; occ. farmer, teacher,  
 and Y.M.C.A. secretary.

FRED (son of Asa Coombs<sup>6</sup>), b. Feb. 11, 1854; m. Feb. 11, 1879, Sarah E. Goddard of Jamaica, Vt. Res. at Brattleboro, Vt., R.F.D. 3.

Charles Franklin, b. Aug. 29, 1880, at Hinsdale, Vt.

Fred Hastings, b. June 26, 1882, “

Mabel Frances, b. Sept. 11, 1888, “

Clyde Abbott, b. April 3, 1891, “

Robert Goddard, b. Mar. 28, 1893, at Guilford, Vt.

Doris J., b. April 7, 1895.

Florence E., b. Jan. 26, 1897.

LUTHER JETHRO (son of Marcus Jethro Coombs), b. Mar. 28, 1871, at Sergeant Bluff, Iowa; m. Aug. 28, 1904, Arabella Ruth Hamilton of Lacona, Iowa. Res. at Sioux City, Iowa; occ. dealer in farm machinery.

Arthur Jethro, b. Jan. 2, 1896.

Ruth Maria, b. Mar. 14, 1897.

Dora May, b. Aug. 29, 1899.

Paul Hamilton, b. Aug. 7, 1901.

Percy Luther, b. July 16, 1907.

#### DESCENDANTS OF JOSHUA.

##### LINE OF JOHN<sup>3</sup> (JOSHUA<sup>2</sup>, ANTHONY<sup>1</sup>).

JOHN, b. Nov. 11, 1748; m. (1st) Savia Brown; d. at Bowdoin, Me., April 20, 1836. Lived at Foster's Point, on the east side of New Meadows River, and because of the loss of one thumb in some unknown way was sometimes designated as "John with one thumb." He followed the sea many years as a sea-captain. He enlisted July 9, 1775, in Capt. Nathaniel Larrabee's company and served on the seacoast in Cumberland county six months and seven days. He also served in Capt. Abraham Tyler's company, Col. Thomas



Poor's militia regiment, which marched to North River, N.Y. He enlisted May 30, 1778, and was discharged Jan. 29, 1779.

The children of the first marriage were:

James, lost at sea.

Joshua, b. July 7, 1775.

Zebulon, b. Mar. 20, 1780.

Sarah, b. July 8, 1783.

John.

Savia.

Joseph, died in childhood.

M. (2d) Charlotte Tarr, who died at Bowdoin, Me., Nov. 7, 1844, aged 71.

Jane.

Charity.

Mary.

Joseph.

Josiah Colby, b. at Bowdoin.

Abigail.

Thomas.

#### *The Fourth Generation and their Children of the Fifth.*

JOSHUA (son of John Coombs<sup>3</sup>), b. July 7, 1775; m. Mary Given; d. Nov. 29, 1851. Occ. blacksmith.

James, b. Nov. 7, 1795.

Martha.

ZEBULON (son of John Coombs<sup>3</sup>), b. Mar. 20, 1780; m. Aug. 1800, Nancy Campbell, who was born Feb. 4, 1779, the daughter of William Campbell of Bowdoin, Me., and the first white female child born in the town; d. April 12, 1850. Occ. farmer.

Fannie Campbell, b. Dec. 12, 1801.

Brown,	b. June 21, 1803.
Sarah,	b. June 15, 1805.
Abner,	b. Aug. 3, 1807.
John,	b. Jan. 8, 1810.
Nancy,	b. May 21, 1812.
William Bates,	b. Nov. 11, 1814.
Dexter Brown,	b. June 26, 1817.
Dennis Deering,	b. Oct. 3, 1820.

SARAH (dau. of John Coombs<sup>3</sup>), b. July 8, 1783; m. Mar. 15, 1802, Peter Coombs of Harpswell, who was born in 1781, and died in September, 1810; d. Nov. 13, 1843.

David, b. May 7, 1803; d. April 24, 1856.

Savia, b. Sept. 15, 1807; d. Oct. 8, 1829.

Eliza, b. Aug. 28, 1809; d. July 26, 1821.

M. (2d) July 10, 1812, David H. Kelly.

Hannah, b. Nov. 14, 1812; d. July 6, 1833.

Mary Jane, b. Feb. 1, 1815; m. — Ring.

James R., b. Aug. 23, 1817; d. Feb. 20, 1847.

John S., b. Oct. 14, 1819.

Daniel C., b. Oct. 23, 1822.

JOHN (son of John Coombs<sup>3</sup>) (see Perils of the Sea), m. Margaret Davidson of Charlestown, Mass.

Alfred Davidson, who lived in northern Ohio.

Armour, died of cholera at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1832.

Elbridge, died in Cincinnati, Ohio.

John, died on a boat coming from New Orleans to Cincinnati.

Emily.

Annis. A granddaughter Annis became the wife of C. W. Withenbury.

James, a hardware merchant at Cincinnati, Ohio, where he died.

Martin, died in Maine.

Mary, died young.

For further account of John Coombs see "Cincinnati Group."

SAVIA (dau. of John Coombs<sup>3</sup>), m. David Storer, a sea-captain.

David Winters.

JANE (dau. of John Coombs<sup>3</sup>), m. Zachariah Beal.

Ira.

Mary.

Joseph.

Abigail.

Simeon.

Jane.

Lavina.

CHARITY (dau. of John Coombs<sup>3</sup>), m. Abram Addams, a sea-captain.

Benjamin.

Captain Addams and his son Benjamin were lost at sea.

M. (2d) David Cornish, b. 1828; d. 1912.

Charlotte, who married a Curtis.

Jane, who married Horace Curtis.

Colby Coombs.

William.

Abram.

David.

Rachel.

Ery.

Susan.

MARY (dau. of John Coombs<sup>3</sup>), m. Nathaniel Beal, a farmer; died in 1876.

Lizzie.

Hannah, b. Sept. 6, 1825.

Benjamin, b. 1828.

Nathaniel, b. 1830.

George T., b. 1833.

Zacheus, b. April 19, 1835.

JOSEPH (son of John Coombs<sup>3</sup>), m. (1st) Margaret Allen. Thomas.

Margaret.

John.

Allen.

M. (2d) Princess (Edgecomb) Kimball.

Charity.

Colby.

JOSIAH COLBY (son of John Coombs<sup>3</sup>), m. Abigail Eaton, dau. of Esquire Eaton of Bowdoin, Me.

Roland L. E., b. at Cincinnati, Ohio, and died at Bowdoinham, aged two years.

Charlotte A., b. at Bowdoinham, Me.

Margaret R., b. at Bowdoinham, Me.; m. David Woodbury. No children.

Roland L. E. (2d), b. at Bowdoinham, Me.; married and died, leaving no children.

Viola V., b. Feb. 6, 1844; now living at Bowdoinham, Me. This is spoken of as "an old Baptist family." Josiah Colby moved to Ohio, but went back to Maine. He died in New York.

John Colby, b. Mar. 9, 1854, and died Jan. 7, 1905.

Was a lawyer and lived in Boston. Never married.

*The Fifth Generation and their Children of the Sixth.*

JAMES (son of Joshua Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. Nov. 7, 1795; m.  
(1st) Lovey Getchell of Durham, Me.; d. Sept. 1, 1880.  
Occ. blacksmith.

William Given, b. Oct. 1, 1819, at Bowdoin.

Nathaniel, b. Feb. 5, 1821.

John.

James.

Mary, b. about 1825.

Daniel, b. Mar. 4, 1828.

Charles.

Ruth.

Martha.

Frank.

M. (2d) Mrs. Gould, a widow.

Nathan.

MARTHA (dau. of Joshua Coombs<sup>4</sup>), m. Lemuel Woodward, a farmer.

Ammon, m. Sarah Tolman of Keene, N.Y.

Asa, m. Hannah Bard.

Rachel, m. Stephen Snow.

Martha.

Sarah, m. Lincoln Cornish.

Winchell.

Joshua, died when a young man.

FANNIE CAMPBELL (dau. of Zebulon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. Dec.  
12, 1801; m. Thomas Minott of Bowdoin, Me., who  
was born June 13, 1795; d. Nov. 5, 1888.

Charles Vincent, b. Oct. 13, 1826.

Nancy Ann, b. Sept. 4, 1828.

Rufus Rogers, b. April 11, 1830; d. June 6, 1855.

Frances, b. Oct. 18, 1833; d. Nov. 6, 1844.

John Coombs,        b. Feb. 20, 1837.

Marietta Simpson, b. Nov. 11, 1841.

Thomas,            b. Aug. 27, 1843.

Elizabeth Coombs, b. Dec. 4, 1845.

BROWN (son of Zebulon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. June 21, 1803; m.  
Nov. 28, 1827, Harriet Stanwood of Bowdoin, Me.,  
who was born Mar. 10, 1810, and died Dec. 28, 1893;  
d. May 1, 1879.

David Minott,    b. Aug. 28, 1828.

Frances Minott, b. April 30, 1831; d. Feb. 14, 1885.

Zebulon,        b. June 2, 1834; d. April 4, 1907.

Ann,            b. June 2, 1836.

Nancy Healy,    b. July 14, 1838.

Harriet,        b. Aug. 11, 1839; d. April 16, 1913.

Dennis Brown, b. Mar. 3, 1850; d. Mar. 4, 1897.

SARAH (dau. of Zebulon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. June 15, 1805; m.  
Capt. David Coombs of Harpswell (son of Peter and  
Sarah), who was born May 7, 1803, and died Apr. 24,  
1856; d. Feb. 7, 1879.

James Minott, b. Mar. 23, 1827. Lost off Arklow  
Banks, Irish Sea, April 24, 1852.

Elbridge C.,    b. April 27, 1828.

David Edwin,   b. July 27, 1830.

Albert Milton, b. Mar. 13, 1834.

John Dexter,   b. Aug. 5, 1837.

Fannie Emily, b. Mar. 6, 1840.

Lincoln Patten, b. July 23, 1841; d. Aug. 13, 1847.

George Armor, b. Aug. 28, 1846. Lost in a cyclone  
off the island of St. Thomas, Oct. 29, 1867.

Lavina Carr, b. Nov. 23, 1849, at West Bowdoin,  
Me. Taught school many years. At the age of  
thirty-three was sent as missionary to Midnapur,  
India.

ABNER (son of Zebulon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. Aug. 3, 1807; m. (1st) Harriet Carter; (2d) Mary Ann Small; d. June 3, 1872. Occ. tanner, farmer, and merchant.

The children of the second marriage were:

Delvina E. } b. Jan. 28, 1858.  
Dennis E. }

Elisha S., b. May 9, 1860.

Clara Etta, b. April 11, 1862.

Ernest Edgar, b. April 18, 1868.

Albert Dennis, b. Mar. 27, 1871.

JOHN (son of Zebulon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. Jan. 8, 1810; m. June 30, 1836, Betsy Powers, who was born Oct. 10, 1811, and died Sept. 22, 1896; d. Dec. 7, 1897. Occ. sea-captain and farmer.

Velgora, b. June 13, 1838.

Sarah, b. Jan. 19, 1840.

Luella, b. Jan. 20, 1850; d. July 14, 1867.

Abner, b. Sept. 15, 1851.

NANCY (dau. of Zebulon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. May 21, 1812; m. Aug. 13, 1835, Abraham Hathaway Healy of Fall River, Mass., who was born April 29, 1810, and died Mar. 1, 1867; d. June 2, 1876.

Abram, b. Oct. 3, 1836.

Theron Addison, b. Dec. 29, 1838; d. Jan. 10, 1839.

Fannie Elizabeth, b. April 9, 1840.

Theron Addison (2d), b. July 2, 1844.

William Ferdinand, b. Feb. 14, 1848; d. Sept. 18, 1852.

Emma Adelaide, b. Mar. 16, 1852.

WILLIAM BATES (son of Zebulon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. June 26, 1817; m. Sept. or Oct., 1834, Lydia Harmon; d. Nov. 4, 1889.

Ferdinand Wright, b. April 27, 1835.

Lydia, b. July, 1836.

David William, b. Dec., 1838; d. Dec. —

DEXTER BROWN (son of Zebulon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. June 26, 1817; m. Dec. 18, 1845, Sarah Jane Todd of Bath, Me., who was born April 4, 1821, and died June 14, 1886; d. Nov. 4, 1880. Occ. ship-joiner.

Fannie Maud, b. Oct. 27, 1846.

John Porterfield, b. Mar. 31, 1848.

Henry Dexter, b. Dec. 14, 1850; d. Aug. 10, 1853.

Sarah Storer, b. June 26, 1853.

Edward Robinson, b. Mar. 13, 1855; d. July 25, 1859.

Mary Ellen, b. July 4, 1858.

Laura, b. Aug. 29, 1860; d. Sept. 22, 1875.

Ulysses Grant, b. Nov. 5, 1863.

Julia Ann, b. Nov. 10, 1864.

DENNIS DEERING (son of Zebulon Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. Oct. 3, 1820; m. Lavinia Carr of Bowdoin, Me., who was born Aug. 16, 1818; d. Sept. 4, 1887. Occ. sparmaker.

LIZZIE BEAL (dau. of Mary Coombs Beal), m. (1st) John Christopher; (2d) — Percil of Boston.

HANNAH BEAL (dau. of Mary Coombs Beal), b. Sept. 6, 1825; m. (1st) William Gould, who was born in 1823 at Bowdoin, Me., and died, in 1846, of consumption in the hospital at Mobile.



Lizzie, b. Sept. 15, 1845.

M. (2d) July 4, 1853, Nehemiah Curtis, who was born Aug. 18, 1807, and died Aug. 8, 1885.

Martha J., b. Sept. 8, 1854.

Benjamin Ella, b. Feb. 10, 1861.

Howard J., b. May 9, 1863.

Angus H., b. Feb. 25, 1869.

BENJAMIN BEAL (son of Mary Coombs Beal), b. 1828;

m. (1st) Sarah Anderson of Bowdoin, Me.

William N.

Frank.

Jennie E.

M. (2d) Sarah Addams.

NATHANIEL BEAL (son of Mary Coombs Beal), b. 1830;

m. (1st) Hannah Small of Bowdoin.

Benjamin.

Rufus.

Lydia.

Lizzie.

Carrie E.

Josephine.

M. (2d) Nettie Graves.

Katie.

Mary.

Alver (or Abner).

John.

Lester.

GEORGE T. BEAL (son of Mary Coombs Beal), b. 1833;

m. (1st) Martha Hogan; d. Mar. 4, 1911.

James Albert.

George T., drowned at Richmond, Me.

M. (2d) Mary Elizabeth Gould, a widow, who died Sept. 5, 1902.

REV. ZACHEUS BEAL (son of Mary Coombs Beal), b. April 19, 1835; m. Lizzie Trufant, who was born Aug. 1, 1834. Occ. minister, Old School Baptist. "Predestinated" to have the half of the state of Maine as his parish, there being only one other of the same denomination in the state.

George William, b. June 2, 1856.

Cora Elizabeth, b. June 8, 1859.

Annette, b. Oct. 11, 1861.

Ella A., b. Oct. 25, 1866.

Rachel C., b. May 19, 1869.

Mary, b. Dec. 21, 1875.

CHARLOTTE A. (dau. of Josiah Colby Coombs), b. at Bowdoinham, Me.; m. J. F. Blake.

Willard, living at Wellesley, Mass. Has a son and daughter.

*The Sixth Generation and their Children of the Seventh.*

WILLIAM GIVEN (son of James Coombs<sup>b</sup>), b. Oct. 1, 1819, at Bowdoin, Me.; m. Clarinda Kinsley of New Gloucester, Me., who died July 20, 1901, at Lisbon Falls; d. Mar. 6, 1898, at Auburn, Me. Occ. blacksmith.

James Edward, b. July 3, 1845.

Delbert Dana, b. July 26, 1850.

NATHANIEL (son of James Coombs<sup>b</sup>), b. Feb. 5, 1821; m. Harriet Cornish, who was born July 15, 1823, and died Oct. 16, 1902; d. Oct. 20, 1876. Occ. blacksmith and farmer.

Hannah, b. April 6, 1843.

Elbridge.

JOHN (son of James Coombs<sup>6</sup>), was married three times.

First wife had three children, the second two, and the third quite a number. Occ. blacksmith.

JAMES (son of James Coombs<sup>6</sup>), married Harriet Allen, and had a daughter who married Zach. Anson.

MARY (dau. of James Coombs<sup>6</sup>), b. about 1825; m. Frank Bennett.

Angie, who married Pierce Allen.

DANIEL (son of James Coombs<sup>6</sup>), b. Mar. 4, 1828; m. Emily Allen of Bowdoin; d. Sept., 1891.

Daniel A., b. Aug. 15, 1850.

Lendal D., b. Jan. 24, 1855.

Elmer.

Julia.

Milton, b. Oct. 23, 1877 (?)

CHARLES (son of James Coombs<sup>6</sup>), m. Lulu Skelton. Had three children. One daughter married Turner Grover.

RUTH (dau. of James Coombs<sup>6</sup>), m. (1st) — Meserve; (2d) John Lewis.

MARTHA (dau. of James Coombs<sup>6</sup>), m. (1st) Jacob Rideout.

Edward, who married a Rogers.

M. (2d) Thomas Gilaspie.

FRANK (son of James Coombs<sup>6</sup>), m. Abbie Adams.

CHARLES VINCENT MINOTT (son of Fannie Campbell Coombs Minott), b. Oct. 13, 1826; m. May 31, 1855, Sarah C. Rogers of Phippsburg, Me., who was born Feb. 23, 1822, and died Feb. 19, 1913; d. Aug. 27, 1883. Occ. ship-builder.

Vincent Rufus, b. Jan. 7, 1857; d. Jan. 11, 1867.  
Alice Maud, b. April 23, 1860.  
Charles Vincent, b. Sept. 12, 1867; d. May 2, 1893.  
Abbie Frances, b. Dec. 24, 1873.

NANCY MINOTT (dau. of Fannie Campbell Coombs Minott),  
b. Sept. 4, 1828; m. George Morrison of Phippsburg,  
Me.; d. April 26, 1861.

Anna Fulton, b. June 10, 1855.

JOHN COOMBS MINOTT (son of Fannie Campbell Coombs  
Minott), b. Feb. 20, 1837; m. (1st) Esther Morrison  
Paul. She died July 11, 1857. Occ. ship-carpenter.  
James Thomas, b. May 4, 1855.

M. (2d) 1859, Sarah Dennison of Gardiner, Me., d. 1870,  
at Bath.

Alfred, b. 1860, at Bowdoinham.

Charlotte B., b. May 14, 1862, “

Sarah Augusta, b. Aug. 24, 1868, “

M. (3d) Mary Richardson Randall of Portland, Me.

Fannie Elizabeth, b. Dec. 18, 1882.

MARIETTA S. MINOTT (dau. of Fannie Campbell Coombs  
Minott), b. Nov. 11, 1841; m. Dec. 26, 1868, George  
Morrison of Phippsburg, Me.

No children.

THOMAS MINOTT (son of Fannie Campbell Coombs Minott),  
b. Aug. 27, 1843; m. Nov. 1868, Margaret Heal, who  
was born Aug. 12, 1842, and died Dec. 31, 1907; d.  
Sept. 10, 1896. Occ. merchant.

Lizzie Drummond, b. April 23, 1869.

Fannie Newell, b. Jan. 23, 1871; d. Feb. 1871.

Henry Melville, b. Mar. 23, 1872.

Eugene Thomas, b. Nov. 5, 1876; d. Nov. 24, 1898.

ELIZABETH COOMBS MINOTT (dau. of Fannie Campbell Coombs Minott), b. Dec. 4, 1845; m. Mar. 3, 1879, Joseph F. Brown of Bowdoin.

Fannie Campbell, b. Aug. 1, 1881.

Joseph Vincent, b. Aug. 2, 1888.

DAVID MINOTT (son of Brown Coombs), b. Aug. 28, 1828; m. Dec. 25, —, Ann Masters, who died April 17, 1902; d. Nov. 8, 1870. Occ. ship-carpenter.

Ellen F., b. July 6, 1854, at Bath; d. Nov. 28, 1872.

James W., b. Sept. 28, 1856, at Bath.

Clara W., b. Feb. 21, 1859, “

Frederick M., b. Oct. 11, 1861, “

Lida S., b. July 20, 1864, “

William M., b. Feb. 6, 1867, “ d. Mar. 11, 1867.

Elvira O., b. Sept. 29, 1869, “ d. Sept. 5, 1875.

ANN (dau. of Brown Coombs), b. June 2, 1836; m. 1860, Lewis Small, who was born in 1826, and died in 1897, at Waterville; d. 1896, at Waterville, Me.

Walter Lewis, b. April 14, 1861, at Bowdoin.

Viola, b. 1862, at Bowdoin; d. 1866.

Hattie Gladys, b. Sept. 18, 1864, at Bath.

Frank Brown, b. April 26, 1867, “ ; d. 1893, in a railroad accident.

Arnold King, b. Jan. 29, 1869, at Bath.

Vionia Luella, b. Aug. 26, 1871, “

Ella, b. 1874, “ d. 1877.

ELBRIDGE (son of Sarah and David Coombs), b. April 27, 1828; m. Abbie Dorothy Currier of Sedgwick, Me., who was born Mar. 29, 1828, and died May 11, 1895; d. Mar. 21, 1899. Occ. ship-carpenter.

Henry Elbridge,	b. Nov. 23, 1853.
Harriet Maria,	b. Sept. 13, 1855.
Herbert Milton,	b. May 3, 1858; d. April 6, 1862.
Horace Lincoln	} b. May 26, 1860. d. Feb. 28, 1882.
Howard Emerson	
Fred Austin,	b. May 10, 1864.
Jacob Flye,	b. June 18, 1866.
James Parker,	b. June 6, 1869.

DAVID EDWIN (son of Sarah and David Coombs), b. July 27, 1830; m. Nov. 2, 1852, Anna Maria Lee of Brunswick, Me.; d. Oct. 29, 1867. Lost at sea. Occ. sea-captain (see story in *Perils of the Sea*).

James Wilbert,	b. Aug. 22, 1856.
Horace Reed,	b. Dec. 17, 1858.
Jeannette Elizabeth,	b. Sept. 24, 1861.
George Holden,	b. Jan. 7, 1863.
Stephen Elbridge,	b. July 24, 1865.

ALBERT MILTON (son of Sarah and David Coombs), b. Mar. 13, 1834; m. Dec. 17, 1857, Sarah Elizabeth Vaughn of Bath, Me.; d. May 28, 1907. Occ. spar-maker.

David Albert,	b. Nov. 20, 1859.
Arthur Gilbert,	b. Jan. 1, 1861.
Florence Adelaide,	b. Feb. 1, 1863.
Nellie Morse,	b. April 26, 1865.
Jennie Maria,	b. Nov. 16, 1867.
Ernest Milton,	b. Nov. 9, 1870.
Frank Eugene,	b. Feb. 15, 1872.
Harry Lincoln,	b. April 14, 1875.

JOHN DEXTER (son of Sarah and David Coombs), b. Aug. 5, 1837; m. May 4, 1862, Emily Beal of Durham, Me., who was born Nov. 1832; d. May 22, 1868.

Charles Dexter, b. Sept. 19, 1866.

FANNIE EMILY (dau. of Sarah and David Coombs), b. Mar. 6, 1840; m. April 5, 1868, Melvin Horton Williams, Res. West Bowdoin, Me.

George Edwin, b. Oct. 12, 1869.

Charles Elbridge, b. June 19, 1871.

Luella Coombs, b. June 20, 1873.

John Melvin, b. June 21, 1875.

Arthur Gilbert, b. April 10, 1877.

Clara Horton, b. Mar. 30, 1879. A graduate of Bates College.

Philip Eugene, b. Jan. 14, 1883.

Ralph Albert, b. Nov. 21, 1885; d. July 10, 1911.

Frederick Melvin, b. May 9, 1889; d. April 27, 1905.

DELVINA E. (dau. of Abner Coombs), b. Jan. 28, 1858; m. June 30, 1887, George W. Beal of Bowdoin.

Raymond Coombs, b. Sept. 24, 1890.

George Ernest, b. July 15, 1894.

ELISHA S. (son of Abner Coombs), b. May 9, 1860; m. Aug. 26, 1882, Vonia Shaw of Bowdoin.

Roy Herman, b. July 3, 1883; d. Jan. 24, 1899.

CLARA ETTA (dau. of Abner Coombs), b. April 11, 1862; m. Sept. 6, 1905, Anson P. M. Given. Res. Bowdoinham, Me., R.F.D.

ERNEST EDGAR (son of Abner Coombs), b. April 18, 1868; m. June 18, 1895, Florence Ellen Brown. Address, Auburn, Me.; occ. wholesale jobber in flour and feed.

Kenneth B. }  
Keith C. } b. Aug. 10, 1897.

VELGORA (dau. of John Coombs), b. June 13, 1838; m.  
Mar. or April, 1858, Joseph Warren Booker of Bow-  
doin, Me.; d. Sept. 22, 1905.

Elizabeth, b. Jan. 28, 1859.

SARAH (dau. of John Coombs), b. Jan. 19, 1840; m.  
William Card of Bowdoin, Me., who died Nov. 1863;  
d. June, 1910.

ABNER (son of John Coombs), b. Sept. 15, 1851; m.  
Nov. 25, 1875, Abbie Williamson of Bowdoinham,  
Me., b. Jan. 14, 1850.

John, b. Aug. 18, 1879.

ABRAM HEALY (son of Nancy Coombs and Abraham H.  
Healy), b. Oct. 3, 1836; m. Oct. 23, 1862, Sarah  
Thompson, b. June 26, 1837, a daughter of Cornelius  
Thompson of Lisbon, Me.; d. June 18, 1889, at Fall  
River, Mass.

Caroline Thompson, b. July 17, 1863.

Carl Ernest, b. Sept. 25, 1871.

Hattie Alice, b. July 20, 1873; d. Dec. 26,  
1878, at Nagasaki, Japan.

FANNIE E. HEALY (dau. of Nancy Coombs and Abraham  
H. Healy), b. April 9, 1840; m. Dec. 16, 1866, Edward  
Marr of Lisbon, Me., who was born Aug. 18, 1839,  
and died Dec. 24, 1891; d. Dec. 12, 1904.

Walter Erwin, b. June 23, 1870.

Winifred Flora, b. Jan. 19, 1872.

Ronello Kent, b. June 14, 1877.

THERON ADDISON HEALY (son of Nancy Coombs and  
Abraham H. Healy), b. July 2, 1844; m. Oct. 2, 1867,  
Frances Ellen Nason of Wiscasset, Me., b. July 5,  
1844; d. Nov. 2, 1909.



Albianna Snow, b. Aug. 24, 1868.

Virgil Theron, b. Feb. 13, 1872.

EMMA ADELAIDE HEALY (dau. of Nancy Coombs and Abraham H. Healy), b. Mar. 16, 1852; m. Dec. 25, 1872, Alonzo Purinton, b. Sept. 20, 1847. He was a Union soldier in the Civil War. Now a merchant in West Bowdoin. They have no children, but have adopted Emery Healy (b. Sept. 23, 1878, and now a graduate of Bates College), who was the son of David Albert Healy. They have also brought up Pearl Webber from seven years of age. Res. West Bowdoin, Me.

FERDINAND WRIGHT (son of William Bates Coombs), b. April 27, 1835; m. Nov., 1860, Lizzie Bibber of Bowdoin; d. May 24, 1899. Occ. spar-maker.

Lavinia Dennis, b. May 27, 1864; d. June 30, 1865.

William David, b. Sept. 17, 1865.

Isaac Chadbourne, b. Mar. 11, 1877.

LYDIA (dau. of William Bates Coombs), b. July, 1836; m. Charles Maxwell of Bowdoinham, who was born Dec. 14, 1830, and died April 21, 1903; d. June 3, 1898.

Herbert Dennis, b. Nov. 7, 1865.

Bessie Willson, b. Oct. 3, 1873.

Charles, b. 1875; d. 1887.

Grace Carr, b. April 28, 1880.

FANNIE MAUD (dau. of Dexter Brown Coombs), b. Oct. 27, 1846; m. Dec. 3, 1867, Charles D. Emery of Bath, Me., who was born Sept. 1, 1843, and died Aug. 22, 1909.

Maude Eleanora.

Florence Gertrude, b. Jan. 16, 1870.

Edward Dexter, b. June 2, 1872.

Brenda Frances, b. Aug. 27, 1882.

JOHN PORTERFIELD (son of Dexter Brown Coombs), b. Mar. 31, 1848; m. Isabel Schofield of Worcester, Mass.

Herbert Dexter.

SARAH STORER (dau. of Dexter Brown Coombs), b. June 26, 1853; m. Feb. 29, 1872, William Harry Allen of Bath, Me., who was born Mar. 4, 1841, and died Nov. 4, 1885. Res. Washington street, Bath, Me.

MARY ELLEN (dau. of Dexter Brown Coombs), b. July 4, 1858; m. (1st) Dec. 8, 1880, Samuel Packard of Bath, Me., who died Oct. 24, 1881; d. Dec. 10, 1894. Frances S., b. July 3, 1881.

M. (2d) Oct. 13, 1885, Elmer D. Hodgkins, b. Aug. 18, 1862.

Leland Thomas, b. June 26, 1887.

Clarence Willard, b. Jan. 20, 1890.

ULYSSES GRANT (son of Dexter Brown Coombs), b. Nov. 5, 1863; m. Nov. 6, 1889, Mary E. Hansford of Pictou, N.S.; d. Nov. 23, 1912.

JULIA ANN (dau. of Dexter Brown Coombs), b. Nov. 10, 1864; m. Nov. 6, 1889, Charles Webber of Bath, Me. Howell Abbott, b. May 1, 1890.

*The Seventh Generation and their Children of the Eighth.*

JAMES EDWARD (son of William Given Coombs), b. July 3, 1845, at Lisbon Falls, Me.; m. Emma J. Mason. Res. Tampa, Fla.

Charles Williams, b. Feb. 28, 1872. Res. at  
Sabattus, Me.

Jennie Owen (Horn), b. June 28, 1874. Res. at  
Providence, R.I.

DELBERT DANA (son of William Given Coombs), b. July  
26, 1850, at Lisbon Falls, Me.; m. Sept. 10, 1902,  
Martha Leufkin of Lewiston, Me. Res. Auburn, Me.;  
occ. artist: portraits and farm scenes.

Martha Pauline, b. July 9, 1907, at Auburn, Me.

DANIEL A. (son of Daniel Coombs), b. Aug. 15, 1850;  
m. (1st) Feb. 9, 1870, Ella Hinkley of Bowdoin, who  
was born Aug. 15, 1852, and died Oct. 31, 1899. Res.  
Bowdoin Center, Me.; occ. farmer.

Verson, b. May 18, 1871.

Mary, b. April 12, 1875.

M. (2d) July 2, 1903, Matilda Gilaspie, b. Mar. 8, 1881.  
Brenard H., b. April 1, 1906.

LENDAL D. (son of Daniel Coombs), b. Jan. 24, 1855;  
m. Sept. 3, 1881, Nancy Purinton, who was born  
Dec. 18, 1861, dau. of Amos Purinton of Bowdoin.  
Res. Bowdoin Center, Me.; occ. blacksmith.

Emily A., b. May 12, 1883.

Edith M., b. Mar. 30, 1888.

Gertrude E., b. April 16, 1894.

Robert G., b. Dec. 4, 1895.

George M., b. Feb. 16, 1898.

Charles E., b. July 25, 1902.

ANNA FULTON MORRISON (dau. of Nancy Minott Morrison),  
b. June 10, 1855; m. Feb. 23, 1885, Charles W. Lee  
of West Bath, Me. Res. Winnegance, Me.

JAMES T. MINOTT (son of John Coombs Minott), b. May 4, 1855; m. Aug. 1881, Hattie Blake Fletcher. Res. Phippsburg Center, Me.; occ. ship-carpenter.

ALFRED MINOTT (son of John Coombs Minott), b. 1860; m. Oct. 13, 1880, Ella A. Bloom. Res. Beacon street, Bath, Me.

Laura E., b. April 18, 1884.

Harold B., b. June 3, 1890.

John C., b. April 28, 1895.

SARAH AUGUSTA MINOTT (dau. of John Coombs Minott), b. Aug. 24, 1868.

JAMES W. (son of David Minott Coombs), b. Sept. 28, 1856, at Bath, Me.; m. Jan. 31, 1885, Anna Cook Cornish, b. Oct. 11, 1860. Res. High street, Bath, Me.; occ. carpenter.

Elvira Ann, b. April 27, 1886, at Bath, Me.

Susan Vivian, b. Feb. 25, 1888, “

CLARA WOOD (dau. of David Minott Coombs), b. Feb. 21, 1859, at Bath, Me.; m. Jan. 1, 1880, Lewis Cameron, b. June 9, 1858, at Marlbridge, Cape Breton. Res. Washington street, Bath, Me.

Ruth Evelyn, b. July 18, 1882.

FREDERICK MINOTT (son of David Minott Coombs), b. Oct. 11, 1861; m. June 13, 1900, Flora B. —, b. Sept. 9, 1879, at Winchester, Mass.

Dorothy M., b. May 1, 1903, at Bath, Me.

Leighton M., b. July 24, 1906, “

Irene F., b. Dec. 10, 1908, “

Albert P., b. Mar. 11, 1911, “

LIDA S. (dan. of David Minott Coombs), b. July 20, 1864;  
m. Dec. 26, 1889, Dennis D. Clark, b. Feb. 25, 1862,  
at Mayfield, Me.

Mildred, b. July 31, 1892, at Bath.

Malen, b. June 19, 1894, “

WALTER LEWIS SMALL (son of Ann Coombs and Lewis  
Small), b. April 14, 1861; m. Jan. 26, 1886, Annie  
Ford of Bath, Me. Present res. Baltimore, Md.

Florence May, b. Feb. 22, 1889, at Van Bibber, Md.

Harvey L., b. Sept. 15, 1890, “ “

Elenor G., b. Oct. 9, 1898, at Baltimore, Md.

HATTIE GLADYS SMALL (dan. of Ann Coombs and Lewis  
Small), b. Sept. 18, 1864, at Bath, Me.; m. Aug. 12,  
1885, Fred. A. Brown of Bath, Me., b. Jan. 23, 1863.

Leon Fred., b. Oct. 11, 1886, at Bath.

Eva Gladys, b. Nov. 21, 1888, “

Clifford, b. June 28, 1892, “

Lena, b. Feb. 18, 1895, at Waterville.

ARNOLD KING SMALL (son of Ann Coombs and Lewis  
Small), b. Jan. 29, 1869, at Bath, Me.; m. Aug. 20,  
1891, Emma Erora Norton. Res. now at Waterville  
for the purpose of educating his children; occ. farmer  
and carpenter.

Lewis Arnold, b. Mar. 5, 1893, at South China, Me.

Eleanor Beryl, b. Nov. 3, 1894, at Waterville, Me.

Juanita, b. July 5, 1896, at S. China, Me.

Walter, b. Aug. 23, 1898, “ “

Carrie Augusta, b. May 28, 1900, “ “

Earle Eugene, b. June 1, 1902, “ “

Bernard Luker, b. April 21, 1905, “ “

Irma Erora, b. April 30, 1907, “ “

VONIA LUELLA SMALL (dau. of Ann Coombs and Lewis Small), b. Aug. 26, 1871; m. Nov. 26, 1897, True G. Pressy, b. Aug. 7, 1897, at Deer Island, Me.

Renia May, b. April 24, 1898.

Arthur Elmer, b. April 20, 1903.

Gladys Elizabeth, b. June 24, 1904.

Estelle Redman, b. Feb. 12, 1908.

HENRY ELBRIDGE (son of Elbridge Coombs), b. Nov. 23, 1853; m. April, 1877, Nellie Murphy. Occ. farmer.  
Mary Abigail, b. May 3, 1880.

HARRIET MARIA (dau. of Elbridge Coombs), b. Sept. 13, 1855; m. July 15, 1874, E. C. Cole of Sedgwick, Me.  
Res. Sedgwick, Me.

Harriet E., b. Sept. 2, 1875.

Henry E., b. Mar. 16, 1877.

Clinton L., b. Jan. 19, 1879.

Agnes Ethel, b. June 23, 1881.

HORACE L. (son of Elbridge Coombs), b. March 26, 1860.  
Res. 168 Bleecker street, New York City; occ. patrolman.

FRED A. (son of Elbridge Coombs), b. May 10, 1864.  
Address, Long Island City, N.Y.; occ. printer.

JACOB FLYE (son of Elbridge Coombs), b. June 18, 1866, at Augusta, Me.; m. Sept. 6, 1899, Mary Eliza Wheeler. Address, 34 Oitt street, Portland, Me. Places of residence: Augusta, 1866-1872; Sedgwick, 1872-1890; Pleasantdale, 1890-1893; Portland, 1893-1913. Occ. accountant. Has been accountant and paymaster for the Portland Stove Foundry Company for twenty years, and for many years clerk and choir leader of the Free Will Baptist Church.



JAMES PARKER COOMBS





JAMES PARKER (son of Elbridge Coombs), b. June 6, 1869, at Augusta, Me.; m. June 17, 1901, Mary Ella Thompson. Places of residence: Augusta, 1869-1871; Sedgwick, 1871-1887; South Portland, 1887-1897; New York City, 1899-1910; Freeport, Me., 1910-1913; occ. farmer, singer, vocal teacher, printer, and mechanic.

A graduate of Brown University, class of '97. Was the "strong man" in college. Played every varsity foot-ball game in the four years' course. Enlisted in the navy during the Spanish War. Promoted nine ratings in five months. Was employed six seasons by the New York Hippodrome and sang to over six million people. Sang daily for over one thousand consecutive performances without missing a number.

The "Boston Post" for October 19, 1904, said of him: "There was hardly a syllable which he uttered last night that was not distinctly heard in all parts of the theatre."

The "Milwaukee Journal" for March 30, 1905: "His large stature and resonant voice were ideal for the part and his declamation was wonderfully distinct."

Has purchased a farm near Freeport, and moved onto it because he considers it the best place to raise his children.

Charlotte Hay, b. Aug. 16, 1910.

Samuel Thompson, b. June 27, 1912.

JAMES WILBERT (son of David Edwin Coombs), b. Aug. 22, 1856; m. Oct. 20, 1886, Emma Elizabeth Cotton of Bowdoin, Me., b. June 10, 1855. Res. Marlboro, Mass. Occ. machinist and farmer.

Rhoda Annie, b. June 8, 1888. A graduate of Wellesley College.

HORACE REED (son of David Edwin Coombs), b. Dec. 15, 1858; m. July, 1885, Cordelia Rideout Sanford of Brunswick, Me. (see Perils of the Sea).

DR. GEORGE HOLDEN (son of David Edwin Coombs), b. Jan. 7, 1863; m. June 6, 1889, Gertrude Farnsworth Willett. Res. Waldsboro, Me.; occ. physician.

Doctor Coombs worked at telegraphy to pay his way through the medical school, and was considered one of the best telegraphers in the eastern states.

Jessie Willett, b. Feb. 3, 1891.

STEPHEN ELBRIDGE (son of David Edwin Coombs), b. July 24, 1865; m. Sept. 4, 1889, Irene Copeland of Warren, Pa., b. Sept. 13, 1862. Occ. civil engineer. Helen Copeland, b. July 25, 1891.

DAVID ALBERT (or Albert Davis) (son of Albert Milton Coombs), b. Nov. 20, 1859; m. July 24, 1888, Rose Camp of Billings, Mont., who died at Los Angeles, Cal., which was their home for some time.

Albert Vaughn, b. Nov. 14, 1895, at Los Angeles, Cal.

ARTHUR GILBERT (son of Albert Milton Coombs), b. Jan. 1, 1861; m. Mar. 27, 1890, Isabella Hepp, b. Jan. 13, 1870. Res. San Francisco, Cal.

Evangeline Vaughn, b. April 7, 1891, at San Francisco, Cal.

Mabel Hepp, b. June 3, 1892, at San Francisco, Cal.

Aileen May, b. Dec. 19, 1894, “

FLORENCE ADELAIDE, (dau. of Albert Milton Coombs), b. Feb. 1, 1863; m. April 7, 1887, George A. Chandler of Brunswick, Me.

Howard Gordon, b. July 19, 1889.

Lawrence Elmer, b. Feb. 7, 1891.

NELLIE MORSE (dau. of Albert Milton Coombs), b. April 26, 1865; m. Aug. 24, 1886, Emery M. Willard of Boston, Mass.

Arthur Emery, b. July 17, 1887.

Mabel Vaughan, b. Mar. 8, 1889.

Alice, b. Nov. 22, 1895.

JENNIE MARIA (dau. of Albert Milton Coombs), b. Nov. 16, 1867; m. June 13, 1888, David A. Corey of Taunton, Mass.

Ralph Lee, b. April 13, 1889.

Walter Coombs, b. Nov. 30, 1890.

Carlton Vaughn, b. Dec. 25, 1893.

Louis, b. 1900.

Dorothy Elizabeth, b. July 27, 1902.

FRANK EUGENE (son of Albert Milton Coombs), b. Feb. 15, 1872; m. June 7, 1899, Ellen Lampson Wonson. Res. recently removed to Edmonton, Alberta, Can.; occ. architect.

Sarah Elizabeth (1st) died in infancy.

Preston Wonson, b. July 3, 1906.

Sarah Elizabeth (2d), lived only about one year.

CHARLES DEXTER (son of John Dexter Coombs), b. Sept. 19, 1866; m. June 20, 1896, Gertrude Purvis, who was born July 23, 1868, at Queens County, N.B. Res. Lisbon Falls, Me.

John Dexter, b. Nov. 18, 1897.

Albert Purvis, b. Sept. 28, 1902.

Florence Genevieve, b. Feb. 22, 1906.

GEORGE EDWIN WILLIAMS (son of Fannie E. Coombs Williams), b. Oct. 12, 1869; m. Nov. 20, 1895, Susan Elizabeth Potter, b. Aug. 14, 1867. Occ. farmer.

Randall Vaughan, b. Feb. 28, 1897.

Sarah Frances, b. June 28, 1898.

CHARLES ELBRIDGE WILLIAMS (son of Fannie E. Coombs Williams), b. June 19, 1871; m. May 23, 1896, Addie Williams of Bowdoin, Me. Occ. farmer.

Ruby May.

Caroll Percy.

ARTHUR GILBERT WILLIAMS (son of Fannie E. Coombs Williams), b. April 10, 1877; m. (1st) Oct., 1903, Bessie Crookson of Belfast, Me., who died Jan., 1904; (2d), Nov. 21, 1905, Margaret Simmonds of Belfast, Me.

ELIZABETH BOOKER (dau. of Velgora Coombs Booker), b. Jan. 28, 1859; m. Feb. 27, 1876, Charles Edgecomb.

Betsy C., b. Feb. 24, 1877.

Arthur E., b. Nov. 4, 1879.

Harry C., b. Nov. 7, 1881.

Lillian C., b. 1885.

Pembroke, b. 1886.

Gilbert, b. 1888.

Velgora B., b. 1893.

John C., b. 1895.

Sarah E.

JOHN (son of Abner Coombs), b. Aug. 18, 1879; m. Mar. 4, 1902, Emily A. Coombs, dau. of George L. Coombs and Nancy Purinton.

Helena F., b. Jan. 27, 1903, at Bowdoin, Me.

Marion B., b. Jan. 16, 1906, at Damariscotta, Me.

Their line runs thus:

Anthony, Joshua, John { Zebulon, John, Abner, John<sup>7</sup>.  
Joshua, James, Daniel, Geo.  
L., Emily<sup>8</sup>.

WILLIAM DAVID (son of Ferdinand W. Coombs), b. Sept. 17, 1865; m. April 3, 1887, Miriam Augusta Cox, b. Oct. 16, 1861. Res. Corlis street, Bath, Me.

Lavinia Dennis, b. July 24, 1888.

Sarah Elizabeth, b. May 21, 1890.

Dennis Deering, b. Sept. 30, 1891; d. May 30, 1892.

Ferdinand Walter, b. Jan. 27, 1894.

ISAAC CHADBOURNE (son of Ferdinand W. Coombs), b. Mar. 11, 1877; m. June 2, 1909, Charlotte E. Pierce, b. Feb., 1886, at Southport, Me. Occ. deputy collector of customs, port of Bath, Me.

Madelin Olivia, b. June 23, 1910.

Edmund Lawrence, b. June 15, 1911.

HERBERT DENNIS MAXWELL (son of Lydia Coombs Maxwell), b. Nov. 7, 1865, at Bath, Me.; m. (1st) Oct. 29, 1887, Miriam C. Spinney; (2d) Louise P. Hodgdon. Res. Bath, Me. Has been a member of the state legislature.

Gertrude, b. Feb. 2, 1908, at Boothbay Harbor, Me.

Charles Gilman, b. July 31, 1911, at Boothbay Harbor, Me.

BESSIE WILLSON MAXWELL (dau. of Lydia Coombs Maxwell), b. Oct. 3, 1873, at Bath, Me.; m. Aug. 18, 1897, Rev. Frederick E. Heath, a Baptist minister now preaching at Cambridge, Mass.

Maxine Gladys, b. Aug. 25, 1898.

Frederick Elbridge, Jr., b. Dec. 25, 1903.

Norman, b. Sept. 13, 1910.

Barbara, b. Sept. 3, 1911.

GRACE CARR MAXWELL (dau. of Lydia Coombs Maxwell), b. April 28, 1880; m. Oct. 17, 1905, Arthur F. Larrabee of Bath, Me.; d. May 28, 1907.

CARL ERNEST HEALY (son of Capt. Abram Healy), b. Sept. 25, 1871; m. Feb. 18, 1896, at Lorine, Cal., Elizabeth Augusta Smith of Fall River, Mass. Is a graduate of Brown University.

Alan Thompson, b. May 7, 1897, at Lorine, Cal.

Carl Smith, b. June 4, 1901, at Auburn, Me.

Donald Royal, b. April 5, 1904, “

VIRGIL THERON HEALY (son of Theron Addison Healy), b. Feb. 13, 1872; m. June 15, 1898, Caroline Thompson Healy.

Harold Eugene, b. Jan. 16, 1899.

Ruth Mildred, b. Sept. 29, 1900.

Pearl Marion, b. June 4, 1902.

Edith Sylvester, b. Jan. 16, 1907; d. June 27, 1907.

#### LINE OF EBENEZER<sup>3</sup> (JOSHUA<sup>2</sup>, ANTHONY<sup>1</sup>).

EBENEZER, b. Jan. 31, 1747, at Newburyport, Mass.; m. Aug. 26, 1773, Abigail Thompson; d. Oct. 5, 1783, at sea. (See sketch.)

Andrew, b. Sept. 2, 1776.

Cynthia, b. May 26, 1778.

Ebenezer, b. July 30, 1792; died young.

#### *The Fourth Generation and their Children of the Fifth.*

ANDREW (son of Ebenezer Coombs), b. Sept. 2, 1776, at Georgetown (Bath), Me.; m. (1st) Dec. 25, 1800, Susanna Jackson, who came with him to Ohio, and who died Mar. 28, 1816.



ABIGAIL COOMBS CONKLIN.





Abigail, b. Oct. 6, 1801.  
 Elizabeth Morgridge, b. Aug. 12, 1803.  
 Andrew, b. Dec. 24, 1805.  
 William Harvey, b. Jan. 17, 1808.  
 Joseph Jackson, b. Oct. 27, 1810.  
 Martha Robinson, b. Aug. 2, 1813.

M. (2d) Margaret Temple, who died July 24, 1817.

M. (3d) Mar. 16, 1819, Elizabeth Mitchell of Kentucky, who died Sept. 2, 1870.

Susanna Jackson, b. May 6, 1820.

Sally Ann, b. July 24, 1821; died in infancy.

Thomas Mitchell, b. June 18, 1823; died in California, unmarried.

CYNTHIA (dau. of Ebenezer Coombs), b. May 26, 1778, at Topsham, Me.; m. Aug. 9, 1798, Silas Dalie; d. at Springfield, Ohio.

George W., moved from Clermont county to Springfield, Ohio, where he died. Had one son, Silas G., and daughter, Maria.

Benjamin F., b. about 1808; d. Nov. 17, 1847, at Clermont county, Ohio.

William E., m. Sarah J. Butler, and had one son, William Everett.

### *The Fifth Generation and their Children of the Sixth.*

ABIGAIL (dau. of Andrew Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. Oct. 6, 1801, in Maine; m. July 26, 1827, Amos Conklin, who died May 6, 1866; d. Oct. 5, 1890. Resided most of her life at or near Cincinnati. She was a woman of remarkably retentive memory, and to her we are indebted for much material for this book.

Emily, b. June 25, 1828.

Mary, b. Mar. 8, 1830.

Oliver Perry, b. Sept. 10, 1840.

Andrew Coombs, b. April 9, 1846.

ELIZABETH M. (dau. of Andrew Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. Aug. 12, 1803; m. (1st) 1827, Thomas J. Hilton of Lynn, Mass. (born at Newmarket, N.H.); d. April 14, 1899.

George Oliver, b. May 1, 1828.

Two others died in infancy.

M. (2d) Thomas Hudson.

ANDREW, JR. (son of Andrew Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. Dec. 24, 1805, in Maine; m. Nov. 29, 1832, Kitty A. Shannon, dau. of John Shannon and Ann Scull. She died Mar. 10, 1906, aged ninety-four years; d. May 26, 1864.

Maria Shannon, b. Sept. 21, 1833.

Albert B., b. July 23, 1835; died on the battlefield Aug. 29, 1862.

Joseph Pliny, b. Oct. 12, 1837; d. May, 1863.

William Carey, b. Aug. 26, 1840.

Olin, b. Nov. 28, 1843; d. July 25, 1867.

Emma Conklin, b. Mar. 12, 1849; d. May 28, 1866  
(see sketch of the family).

WILLIAM HARVEY (son of Andrew Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. June 17, 1808, at Brunswick, Me.; m. May 25, 1837, Jane Edsall of Fort Wayne, Ind., who died June 26, 1894; d. Nov. 27, 1894, at Fort Wayne, Ind. (see sketch).

John Marshall, b. Nov., 1838.

Emily, died young.

Agnes, “ “

Charles Harvey, b. Jan., 1847, died at the age of nineteen.

William Edsall, b. Aug., 1849; d. April, 1879.

Joseph G., b. Aug. 7, 1852, at Alameda county, Cal., lived at Fort Wayne, Ind., and now living at La Jolla, Cal.

Thomas Andrew, b. Mar. 22, 1855.

Minnie Louisa, b. July 1, 1858, in Ohio; d. Jan. 9, 1883, at Fort Wayne, Ind.

Alice Leiby, b. Aug. 1, 1861, at Fort Wayne, Ind.  
Now living at La Jolla, Cal.

JOSEPH JACKSON (son of Andrew Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. Oct. 27, 1810; m. May 16, 1844, Alice Leiby, who was born April 9, 1825, and died April 19, 1866; d. April 29, 1886.

Charles Leiby, b. Sept. 8, 1845.

Joseph Leiby, b. Dec. 17, 1847.

William Harvey, b. Feb. 6, 1850; d. Jan. 30, 1865.

Winfield Scott, b. May 27, 1852; d. June 9, 1852.

Thomas Mitchell, b. Dec. 5, 1853; d. Sept. 26, 1887.

Alice Leiby, b. May 23, 1856.

Vinton, b. Jan. 27, 1859.

Albert, b. Sept. 9, 1862; d. Sept. 7, 1865.

Andrew, b. April 8, 1866; d. June 10, 1866.

The first two were born at Gallipolis, Ohio, the others at Washington, D.C. (see sketch).

MARTHA ROBINSON (dau. of Andrew Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. Aug. 2, 1813, at Clermont county, Ohio, m. Jan. 2, 1837, Rufus Hubbard, who died at Keokuk, Iowa, Sept. 7, 1880; d. Jan. 3, 1899, at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Andrew Coombs, b. Jan. 23, 1839, at Clermont county, Ohio.

Frank W., b. Dec. 15, 1842, at Cincinnati, Ohio;  
d. Jan. 11, 1869, at Keokuk, Iowa.

Mary P., b. Dec. 12, 1846, at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Charles R., b. Aug. 20, 1849, at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Ella B., b. Sept. 18, 1853, at Cincinnati, Ohio, now living at La Jolla, Cal.

SUSANNA J. (dau. of Andrew Coombs<sup>4</sup>), b. May 6, 1820; m. Feb. 2, 1843, Rev. William Cox, a Baptist minister of Indiana; d. July 14, 1849. Both he and she died of cholera on the afternoon of the same day, at Milford, Ohio, and were buried in the same grave at Lindale, Clermont county, Ohio.

Harvey Coombs, b. Jan. 19, 1847. At an early age he entered the United States navy, and was drowned Aug. 3, 1864, at Hogg's Point, La., aged seventeen years, six months, fifteen days.

*The Sixth Generation and their Children of the Seventh.*

EMILY CONKLIN (dau. of Abigail Coombs Conklin), b. June 25, 1828; m. June 30, 1851, George W. Nye, for many years principal of the Walnut Hills School, Cincinnati, Ohio, and who died June, 1890; d. Feb. 6, 1895. Resided most of her life at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Charles, b. May 14, 1855; d. Aug., 1906.

George T., b. Dec. 19, 1857; d. Jan. 3, 1858.

George, b. May 7, 1859; d. Aug. 13, 1880.

Eugene, b. July 3, 1861; d. Nov. 3, 1888.

William, b. Aug. 21, 1865; d. Dec. 8, 1889.

Fred., b. Mar. 2, 1870; d. Mar. 20, 1871.

Elbert, b. Dec. 9, 1871; d. Feb. 14, 1892.

MARY CONKLIN (dau. of Abigail Coombs Conklin), b. Mar. 8, 1830; m. Jan. 1, 1852, Cyrus Nason, a teacher in Cincinnati public schools, who died July 26, 1865; d. Mar. 3, 1853.

George, b. Feb. 24, 1853; d. April 24, 1864.

OLIVER PERRY CONKLIN (son of Abigail Coombs Conklin),  
b. Sept. 10, 1840; m. Nov. 27, 1866, Elizabeth Treasure  
(who was born at New Castle, Ky., May 6, 1847.  
She was the daughter of James Treasure and Mary  
Cadby of England; now living at Norwood, Ohio); d.  
Mar. 1, 1875.

Mary, b. Sept. 11, 1867.

Oliver Frank, b. Aug. 29, 1869.

Kate Treasure, b. Feb. 21, 1872 (see sketch).

ANDREW COOMBS CONKLIN (son of Abigail Coombs Conklin), b. April 9, 1846; m. Sept. 2, 1875, Elizabeth Miller, daughter of Charles and Hannah Jane Miller of Cincinnati, Ohio, who died June 22, 1893; d. April 2, 1894. Occ. broker, Third street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Elizabeth Miller, b. Mar. 21, 1880.

Charles Miller, b. Aug. 29, 1882, at Bridgetown,  
Ohio.

GEORGE OLIVER HILTON (son of Elizabeth Coombs Hilton), b. May 1, 1828, at Ripley, Ohio; m. Jan. 18, 1853, Mary Elizabeth Luce of Oberlin, Ohio, who died Nov. 18, 1911; d. June 29, 1913. Occ. nurseryman and fruit grower.

George F., b. May 2, 1857, and died July, 1900.

Was an ordained Baptist minister. Unmarried.

Frank Edwin, b. Mar. 15, 1858.

Robert Anderson, b. April 19, 1861.

Libbie Maria, b. April 19, 1861. Living at San  
Diego, Cal.

Mary B., b. Dec. 15, 1866. Living at San  
Diego, Cal.

Four other children died in their first year: Wm.  
Wallace, Lucy Birge, William, and Nellie. All  
were born at Keokuk, Iowa.

MARIA SHANNON (dau. of Andrew Coombs, Jr.), b. Sept. 21, 1833; m. Sept. 4, 1867, Dr. Joseph S. Galloway; d. Oct. 30, 1880.

Edna Maria, b. Feb. 1, 1869.

Joseph Coombs, b. Oct. 25, 1873.

WILLIAM CAREY (son of Andrew Coombs, Jr.), b. Aug. 26, 1840; m. (1st) Mar. 6, 1867, Mary A. McDonald, who died June 21, 1870. Present address, R.F.D. 1, Amelia, Ohio.

Bertha, b. Feb. 8, 1868.

Olin Andrew, b. June 18, 1870; d. Sept. 23, 1870.

M. (2d) Jan. 1, 1872, Sarah A. Corbly, dau. of Newton and Huldah Corbly, who was born July 18, 1846.

Albert Newton, b. Oct. 7, 1872.

Verner Leslie, b. July 1, 1874.

JOHN MARSHALL (son of William Harvey Coombs), b. Nov. 1838; was married three times. Had one child by his first wife.

Edmund Harvey, b. Jan. 17, 1863.

THOMAS ANDREW (son of William Harvey Coombs), b. Mar. 22, 1855, in Alameda county, Cal.; m. in 1893, at Saginaw, Mich. Res. Fort Wayne, Ind.; occ. bookkeeper.

Juanita R.

CHARLES LEIBY (son of Joseph Jackson Coombs), b. Sept. 8, 1845; m. April 22, 1870, Lydia J. Blankman, who was born June 30, 1845; d. 1898.

Alice Sergeant, b. Mar., 1872; d. 1872.

Charles Mason, b. 1874; d. Mar. 30, 1896.

Genevieve Chamberlain, b. 1876.

Brenda Barrett, b. Mar. 1878; d. Jan., 1887.

Ethel Eugenie, b. April, 1882.

JOSEPH LEIBY (son of Joseph Jackson Coombs), b. Dec. 17, 1847, at Gallipolis, Ohio; m. June 13, 1876, Margaret G. Schively; d. Aug. 18, 1899, at Washington, D.C. Occ. patent attorney.

John Schively, b. May 1, 1880.

Guy, b. June 15, 1882.

Grace Duryee, b. May 31, 1887.

ALICE LEIBY (dau. of Joseph Jackson Coombs), b. May 23, 1856; m. Nov. 3, 1881, Addison Cole Getchell, who was born July 21, 1844. Res. 4 Hartford street, Dorchester, Mass.

Albert Randolph, b. Aug. 20, 1882, at Dorchester, Mass.

Arthur Vinton, b. Feb. 11, 1888, at Dorchester, Mass.

VINTON (son of Joseph Jackson Coombs), b. Jan. 27, 1859; m. Oct. 31, 1882, Carrie Virginia Lane, dau. of Charles E. and Susan E. Lane of Washington, D.C., who was born Aug. 13, 1859, and who died Feb. 24, 1903; d. June 15, 1904, at Washington, D.C. Occ. patent lawyer.

Harvey, b. July 2, 1883; d. July 19, 1883.

Edith Lane, b. Oct. 5, 1884.

Alice Leiby, b. June 12, 1888.

Louise Frances, b. Aug. 30, 1895.

ANDREW COOMBS HUBBARD (son of Martha R. Coombs Hubbard), b. Jan. 23, 1839, in Clermont county, Ohio; m. Jan. 1, 1861, Abbie Maria Mulliken of Cincinnati, Ohio; d. April 19, 1907, at Danbury, Conn. Occ. Baptist minister (see sketch).

Martha Clement, b. Feb. 16, 1862, at Woodstock, Ill.

Harry Gregory, b. April 22, 1864, at Springfield, Ill.

Francis Wayland, b. Dec. 1, 1866, at Cincinnati, Ohio.

MARY P. HUBBARD (dau. of Martha R. Coombs Hubbard),  
b. Dec. 12, 1846; m. (1st) Dr. George H. Russell, who  
died June 3, 1883, at Silver Cliff, Colo. Now resides  
at La Jolla, Cal.

Harry Hale, b. Jan. 27, 1869, at Cheyenne, Wyo.  
M. (2d) John W. Hughes.  
Charles.

CHARLES RANDOLPH HUBBARD (son of Martha R. Coombs  
Hubbard), b. Aug. 20, 1849, at Cincinnati, Ohio; m.  
June 24, 1875, Bessie W. Jones. Res. 9 Park avenue,  
Hartwell, O.; occ. live stock commission merchant.

Louise, b. July 23, 1876.

Edwin Walden, b. June 19, 1880.

Mabel, b. May 10, 1884.

*The Seventh Generation and their Children of the  
Eighth.*

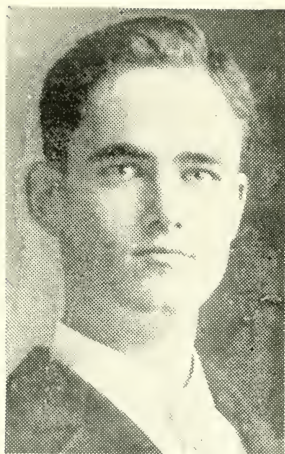
MARY CONKLIN (dau. of Oliver Perry Conklin), b. Sept.  
11, 1867; m. June 13, 1895, Dr. C. Sibbett. Present  
address, 3823 Spencer avenue, Norwood, Ohio.

Rachel, b. June 25, 1897, at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Winifred, b. Oct. 12, 1899, “

OLIVER FRANK CONKLIN (son of Oliver Perry Conklin), b.  
Aug. 29, 1869; m. (1st) May 26, 1891, Lulu Earle,  
at Tyler, Tex. Present address, Anderson, Ind.; occ.  
electrician and manufacturer.





FRANK HOWARD HILTON.



Oliver Earle, b. Mar. 11, 1892, at St. Louis, Mo.  
M. (2d) Mary Mahew.  
Alma May.

KATE TREASURE CONKLIN (dau. of Oliver Perry Conklin),  
b. Feb. 21, 1872, at St. Peters, Minn.; m. Jan. 7, 1894,  
Edwin L. Hitchens. Present address, 3918 Regent  
street, Norwood, Ohio.

Arthur Bernhard, b. May 8, 1898.

Margaret Elizabeth, b. Nov. 2, 1901.

Robert Harrington, b. Feb. 24, 1909.

ELIZABETH MILLER CONKLIN (dau. of Andrew Coombs  
Conklin), b. Mar. 21, 1880, near Cincinnati, Ohio; m.  
May 16, 1906, Martin Purvis Harris. Address, R. 2,  
La Salle, Colo.

CHARLES MILLER CONKLIN (son of Andrew Coombs  
Conklin), b. Aug. 29, 1882, at Bridgetown, Ohio; m.  
April 26, 1905, Virginia Davis. Res. 7202 Fern Bank  
avenue, Fern Bank, Cincinnati, Ohio; occ. mechanical  
engineer and manufacturer of auto supplies.

Charles Davis, b. June 1, 1906.

Robert Miller, b. Oct. 30, 1907.

Virginia Dodsworth, b. April 9, 1909.

FRANK EDWIN HILTON (son of George O. Hilton), b.  
Mar. 15, 1858, at Keokuk, Iowa.; m. June 17, 1886,  
Georgia Elstner of Cincinnati, Ohio. Res. Portland,  
Ore., where he is employed in banking and real-estate  
business, being principal proprietor of Elmhurst, a  
suburb of Portland.

Elstner, b. April 9, 1887.

Frank H., b. April 26, 1889, a graduate of Stan-  
ford University, degree in law, May, 1913.

Harold H., b. April 9, 1892.

Miriam, b. Oct. 6, 1899.

ROBERT ANDERSON HILTON (son of George O. Hilton), b. April 19, 1861; m. 1898, Etta Smith, at San Diego, Cal. Res. Chicago, Ill.; occ. physician. Office, suite 1601, Lake View Bldg., 116 So. Michigan avenue.

EDNA M. GALLOWAY (dau. of Maria Coombs Galloway), b. Feb. 1, 1869, at Lindale, Ohio; m. Mar. 18, 1891, Elias H. Huffman, who was born Nov. 21, 1861, dealer in farm implements and buggies, Columbus, Ohio. Resides at 913 Neil avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

Howard Galloway, b. Dec. 29, 1891.

Stanley Elias, b. Sept. 9, 1893.

Roger Thomas, b. July 27, 1904.

JOSEPH COOMBS GALLOWAY (son of Maria Coombs Galloway), b. Oct. 25, 1873, at Dansville, N.Y.; m. May 25, 1905, Hannah M. Rude of Montgomery, Ohio. Resides at Port Allegheny, Pa., where he is owner and proprietor of Eden nurseries and greenhouse (see cut).

BERTHA COOMBS (dau. of William C. Coombs), b. Feb. 8, 1868; m. May 30, 1888, George M. Burns. Res. 5 Eden Park terrace, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Frederick D., b. Sept. 6, 1889.

VERNER L. (son of William C. Coombs), b. July 1, 1874; m. May 8, 1900, Grace Dugan. Address, R. 1, Amelia, Ohio.

Naomi, b. Jan. 29, 1901.

Norman Dugan, b. Dec. 18, 1902.

Alice, b. Dec. 18, 1903.



JOSEPH COOMBS GALLOWAY AND WIFE,  
HANNAH RUDE GALLOWAY.



Olin Corbly, b. Aug. 6, 1906.

Roger, b. Dec. 13, 1911.

EDMOND HARVEY (son of John Marshall Coombs), b. Jan. 17, 1863; m. Mar. 31, 1902, Ethel Forsyth Hanna.

Edmund Harvey, b. April 19, 1905; d. Nov. 26, 1910.

John Marshall, b. May 29, 1910.

ETHEL EUGENIE (dau. of Charles Leiby Coombs), b. April, 1882; m. May 8, 1912, Jewell Winston Wells of Arkansas.

Alvin Winston Wells, b. Aug. 9, 1913.

JOHN SCHIVELY (son of Joseph Leiby Coombs), b. May 1, 1880; m. June 6, 1906, Rose Mauzy.

Elizabeth, b. May 6, 1907.

EDITH LANE (dau. of Vinton Coombs), b. Oct. 5, 1884; m. Oct. 11, 1911, George William Crane, Jr., lawyer and judge of Municipal Court, Aberdeen, South Dak. Res. at Aberdeen, South Dak.

Vinton Charles, b. July 27, 1912.

MARTHA CLEMENT HUBBARD (dau. of Andrew Coombs Hubbard), b. Feb. 16, 1862, at Woodstock, Ill.; m. June 27, 1887, Joseph Allen Skinner of Holyoke, Mass.

She was a graduate of Vassar College in 1884, a teacher in Holyoke High school, 1884-1887, when she married Joseph A. Skinner, son of William Skinner, silk manufacturer of Holyoke, who with his brother, William Skinner, has succeeded to his father's business.

Ruth Isabel, b. Nov. 17, 1888.

Elizabeth Hubbard, b. Dec. 18, 1890.  
William, b. Nov. 2, 1896.  
Martha, b. Feb. 3, 1903.

HARRY GREGORY HUBBARD (son of Andrew Coombs Hubbard), b. April 22, 1864; m. Aug. 7, 1888, Nellie E. Fisher of Danbury, Conn. Occ. machinist.

FRANK W. HUBBARD (son of Andrew Coombs Hubbard), b. Dec. 1, 1866, at Cincinnati, Ohio; m. Dec. 1, 1897, Mary Flather of Bridgeport, Conn.; d. Feb. 3, 1909, at Erie, Pa. Occ. machinist.

Sophie Abby, b. Mar. 5, 1899.  
Andrew George, b. Mar. 26, 1903.

HARRY HALE RUSSELL (son of Mary P. Hubbard Russell), b. Jan. 27, 1869, at Cheyenne, Wyo.; m. Sept. 27, 1889, Dollie E. McEntire, at Santa Fe, N. Mex. Present residence, Conejos, Colo.

He became recorder of Conejos county, Colo., in 1891, which office he retained for seventeen years, when he was elected county treasurer of the same county for two years. He is now in business at the same place as an abstractor.

George Oscar, b. Nov. 21, 1890.  
Ray McEntire, b. Aug. 4, 1892.  
Harry James, b. May 5, 1895.  
Mary Lucille, b. May 6, 1900.  
Nannie Etta, b. June 2, 1901.  
Susan Edna, b. Jan. 2, 1907.  
Ella Elizabeth, b. Nov. 21, 1908.





"EDEN NURSERIES," PORT ALLEGANY, PA.



LINE OF STEPHEN<sup>3</sup> (JOSHUA<sup>2</sup>, ANTHONY<sup>1</sup>).

STEPHEN, b. April 1, 1739; m. Jemima Dow; d. Nov. 17, 1808. He lived at Foster's Point, on the east side of New Meadows River. On the breaking out of the Revolutionary War he was commissioned as a lieutenant by Governor Hancock.

Stephen, b. Jan. 6, 1762.

David, b. May 27, 1764; d. 1803.

Sarah, b. Dec. 11, 1766; m. (1st) — Lyon; (2)

Luke Ryerson; (3) Benj. Coxe.

Jemima, b. Jan. 9, 1769.

Daniel, b. July 8, 1771; d. Aug. 1, 1841.

Mary, b. Aug. 25, 1773. Said to have married a man named Ayling.

Nathaniel, b. Jan. 14, 1779; m. Elizabeth Turner.  
Had three children.

Judith, b. Feb. 18, 1781.

Jonathan, b. June 6, 1785; d. June 29, 1811.

Lucretia, b. 1787 (?).

*The Fourth Generation and their Children of the Fifth.*

STEPHEN (son of Stephen Coombs<sup>3</sup>), b. Jan. 6, 1762; m. Oct. 16, 1796, Sarah Haynes of Brunswick, who was born Aug. 30, 1777, and died Dec. 8, 1861; d. Dec. 14, 1840.

Harriet, b. July 26, 1797.

Samuel, b. Oct. 10, 1798; d. 1823. He was a traveling blacksmith, and was found murdered near Brunswick.

Warren, b. Aug. 19, 1800; d. Dec. 8, 1840.

Stephen, b. 1802. Went away from home and was never heard from afterward. Probably went to sea.

Sarah, b. Dec. 28, 1804.  
Daniel F., b. Mar. 22, 1807.  
Rachel, b. April 2, 1809; d. Dec. 20, 1880.  
Almira, b. Aug. 21, 1811.  
Sophia, b. Jan. 16, 1814; d. April 24, 1866.  
Hannah, b. May 8, 1816.  
Martha, b. Mar. 25, 1819.

DANIEL (son of Stephen Coombs<sup>3</sup>), b. July 8, 1771; m.  
Deborah Cowing.

Martha, m. John R. Larrabee.

Charles.

Mindwell.

Nathaniel.

Eliza H., died in young womanhood.

Daniel. Said to have left home and was never  
heard from.

Deborah.

Cowing.

James, died in infancy.

James (2d).

Mariah.

These names are given from memory, and the order  
may not be correct.

#### LINE OF JOSHUA<sup>3</sup> (JOSHUA<sup>2</sup>, ANTHONY<sup>1</sup>).

JOSHUA, b. July 11, 1737.

Rhoda, m. Abner Nutting.

Joshua. Was a sea-captain, and was drowned.

Susanna.

Rebecca, m. Robert Fulton.

Abner, m. Abigail Dodd, who was born at Lisbon,  
Me.

Margaret, m. John Purinton.  
Eben, m. Margaret Hill.  
Betsy, m. John Todd.  
Deliverance, m. Samuel Haskins.

*The Fourth Generation and their Children of the Fifth.*

SUSANNA (dau. of Joshua Coombs<sup>3</sup>), m. Samuel Tibbets, Jr., who was born June 19, 1756, and died May 2, 1824. He removed to Ohio about 1810, as did also his father, Samuel Tibbets, Esq.

Charles.

Rebecca, m. — Cushman.

Reliance, b. Oct. 31, 1803.

Samuel, b. about 1805; m. Mary Ann Dolph.

Earle T., b. Feb. 11, 1808; m. Nannie Hance.

Betsy, b. May 9, 1809; m. John D. Dunham.

Joshua, m. Jane Barnes.

John, m. Sarah A. Nelson.

*The Fifth Generation and their Children of the Sixth.*

RELiance TIBBETS (dau. of Susanna Coombs Tibbets), b. Oct. 31, 1803; m. May 6, 1827, Silas Dolen.

Horace Keezer, b. Feb. 3, 1828. Served in Union army.

Samuel Tibbets, b. Jan. 9, 1831. Served in Union army in 89th O.V.I. Now living at Bethel, Ohio.

Susan Tibbets, b. May 18, 1833; m. F. Leeds.

Elizabeth Bartholomew, b. Mar. 22, 1836; m. David Donham, Esq.

Alice, b. Jan. 29, 1840; m. Orlando Leeds.

Maurice, b. Jan. 9, 1847. Died in rebel prison during the Civil War.

## UNATTACHED FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS.

SANFORD COOMBS, born at Mattawamkeag. Never married. Son of Capt. Warren Coombs, who lived in Mattawamkeag, where he died several years ago.

Other sons of Warren Coombs are: Hamlin, who was a soldier in the Civil War, now dead, but survived by a son, Warren, who has five children and lives at Mattawamkeag. Dexter, now dead. Moses, now living in Colorado.

ELLIS FREMONT COOMBS (probably from some New Meadows Coombs family), b. Dec. 3, 1854, at West Bath, Me.; m. Nov. 23, 1882, Maude R. Abbott.

Florence Kelley, b. May 5, 1887.

Joseph Frederick, b. May 16, 1889; d. Oct. 1889.

Malvina Louise, b. Mar. 22, 1892.

Father, Carmi Coombs.

Grandfather, Daniel Coombs.

A brother, Charles, was in the 19th Maine Regiment. Daniel, another brother, drove a provision team in to the mines in California and was killed by the Indians.

FRED ALTON COOMBS, b. June 20, 1859, at Whitefield, Me.; m. Feb. 23, 1887, Mary M. Taylor of Augusta, Me. P.O. address, Windsorville, Me., R.F.D. 54; occ. farmer.

Father, Charles E. Coombs.

Grandfather, Franklin Coombs.

The following are without doubt descended from the New Meadows Coombs families, but I have been unable to trace them further back:

HARRY STEVENS COOMBS, b. Oct. 27, 1878, at Lewiston, Me.; m. Oct. 1, 1902, Jane B. Coombs. Res. Lewiston; occ. architect.

Father, George Millard Coombs.

Grandfather, John Coombs of Brunswick.

FRED H. COOMBS, brother of Harry Stevens Coombs. Res. Lewiston, Me.

JOHN COOMBS (son of Joseph Coombs of Bowdoin, Me.), b. Aug. 2, 1830; m. Nov. 11, 1855, Frances S. York. Res. Yarmouth, Me.; occ. carpenter.

George E., b. July 29, 1856.

Charles E., b. Sept. 8, 1862.

Albert H., b. April 8, 1866.

GEORGE E. COOMBS (son of John Coombs), b. July 29, 1856, at Yarmouth, Me. P.O. address, Yarmouthville, Me.; occ. farmer.

ALBERT H. COOMBS (son of John Coombs), b. April 8, 1866. Address, Yarmouthville, Me. With his brother, is engaged in the manufacture of fine confectionery.

FRANK HERMAN COOMBS, b. May 20, 1857, at Farmington, Me.; m. Aug. 7, 1880, Ellen Jane Snow. Address, West Kennebunk, Me.; occ. blacksmith.

John Wesley, b. Nov. 18, 1882.

Raymond Curtis, b. Nov. 20, 1884.

Ernest Frank, b. Feb. 19, 1887.

Harry Everett, b. Oct. 3, 1889.

Alice Maria, b. Oct. 5, 1891.

Father, John Coombs of Durham, now dead.  
Grandfather, Tom Coombs of Durham.  
Uncles, Asa, Charles, Joseph, live in the West.  
Brother, Maurice Coombs, in California.  
Sister, Alice Robinson, died in California.

JOHN WESLEY (son of Frank Herman Coombs), b. Nov. 18, 1882; m. Nov. 29, 1910, Mary Elizabeth Russ of Palestine, Tex. Address, West Kennebunk, Me.; occ. ball-player.

RAYMOND CURTIS (son of Frank Herman Coombs), b. Nov. 20, 1884; m. Dec. 23, 1912, Eleanor H. Droun. Address, West Kennebunk, Me.; occ. farmer.

The following families are from New Jersey. It is not known whether they are descendants of Anthony, but family names and traditions, as stated below, indicate that they probably are from the Coombs families around New Bedford, Mass.:

HARRY L. COOMBS, born at Unionville, Gloucester county, N.J.; m. July 14, 1887, Emma R. Seeger. Now a resident of Kansas City, Mo. A wholesale dealer in fruit and produce, of the firm of B. F. Coombs & Brother, Kansas City, Mo. His brother, B. F. Coombs, is now a resident of Denver, Colo.

Edwin S. Coombs, b. Sept. 19, 1893.

Father, John J. Coombs.

Grandfather, Benj. H. Coombs. Both were born in Gloucester county, N.J. "Grandfather's parents died when he was very young, and he being the only child, and having no relatives of the Coombs line to inform him, we can not trace direct lineage farther back, but tradition leads me to believe that we belong to the same



family of Coombs's that are so numerous throughout New England."

These families are also from New Jersey, but spell the name differently:

MILTON COMBS, b. Jan. 18, 1837, at Elenor, Clermont county, Ohio; m. Sept. 14, 1865, Martha Elizabeth Shaw. Res. Elenor, Ohio; occ. farmer.

Kezia S., b. July 2, 1866; d. July 8, 1902.

Sarah E., b. Sept. 29, 1871.

Daniel B., b. Dec. 29, 1872.

Martha B., b. June 30, 1874.

Charles M., b. July 24, 1876.

Thomas S., b. Dec. 5, 1879.

"My father, Daniel Webster Combs, was born in New Jersey, Mar. 7, 1803, and died Nov. 3, 1885. My grandfather, Thomas Combs, was born Oct. 14, 1779, and died Dec. 2, 1855. I do not know where my grandfather was born. He served in the Revolutionary War, and came to Ohio from New Jersey about 1806. I and two of my brothers, James and Abner, served in the Civil War. James, Abner, and Jefferson Combs are my brothers. Joseph and Wesley are cousins."

The following may or may not be descendants of Anthony:

Capt. Ardon W. Coombs, 17 Mathews St. (Woodford Sta.), Portland, Me.

Charles W. Coombs, 243 St. John St., Portland, Me.

Elisha S. Coombs, 217 High St., Portland, Me.

Frank C. Coombs, 1336 Forest Ave., Portland, Me.

Capt. Elmer E. Coombs, 74 Pickett St., Portland, Me.

George E. Coombs, Illsley St., Portland, Me.

George H. Coombs, 25 Commercial St., Portland, Me.  
George W. Coombs, 64 Chestnut St., Portland, Me.  
James E. Coombs, 27 State St., Portland, Me.  
Percy Coombs, 118 Pearl St., Portland, Me.  
Abner I. Coombs, 312 Washington St., Dorchester, Mass.  
Arthur C. Coombs, 174 Grampian Way, Dorchester, Mass.  
George B. Coombs, 119 Southern Ave., Dorchester, Mass.  
C. C. Coombs, Belfast, Me.  
Frank E. Coombs, 52 McLellan St., Dorchester, Mass.  
Davis E. Coombs, 309 Huntington Ave., Boston, Mass.  
Ezra V. Coombs, 16 Stone St., Charlestown, Mass.  
Edgar B. Coombs, 47 Hawthorne St., Roslindale, Mass.  
Eugene L. Coombs, Wilmington, Mass.  
Edward S. Coombs, Malden, Mass.  
John S. Coombs, 68 Hammond St., Roxbury, Mass.  
John T. Coombs, M.D., 1098 Washington St., Boston,  
Mass.  
Justin F. Coombs, Arlington Heights, Mass.  
William E. Coombs, 803 Parker St., Roxbury, Mass.  
Walter M. Coombs, 18 Holborn St., Roxbury, Mass.  
Thomas J. Coombs, Somerville, Mass.

WILLIAM J. COOMBS, president of The South Brooklyn Savings Institution, now nearly eighty years old, and the only surviving member of his father's family, writes me this account of his ancestry:

My brother, who died fifty years ago, made some investigations, and while I remember the purport of them, there is no record that I can find.

They were to this effect: that the founder of the family of the name of "Coumbe" went from Normandy with William The Conqueror and settled in England.

You will find plenty of the name in some parts of England. Three of his descendants came to this country together. One

went to what is now the state of Maine, another migrated to the West, which was then a wilderness, and was lost to the family, although there are traditions that he was wild, adventurous, and a great fighter. The other brother settled in the Mohawk Valley, under the Patroon Van Rensselaer. He married a Walrath, a German woman of great dignity. I come from this branch, and cannot find that my ancestors achieved any distinction, further than that my grandfather, Peter, was a soldier in the war of the Revolution, and my father, Charles, in the war of 1812. . . .

When at Stratford in England, I found numerous reminders of one John O'Coombe. His monument is in the same church with that of Shakespeare. The epitaph was written by Shakespeare and is as follows :

Here lies the body of John O'Coombe,  
At length the Devil has claimed his own.

He was evidently not a friend of the poet. Tradition says that he loaned Shakespeare one hundred pounds to pay his fine for poaching, and incurred his enmity in attempts to collect it.

Personally, I have not achieved any great success, except that I initiated the business of exporting American manufactured products ; was close to Presidents Garfield, Cleveland, Harrison, McKinley, and Roosevelt, and collected for the government one hundred and twenty-five million dollars, which was counted as worthless.

President Cleveland expressed his intention of appointing me Secretary of the Treasury when Carlisle expected to retire, but as Carlisle remained I was not appointed.

Mr. Coombs was also appointed a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission by President McKinley, a position which he declined. A further account will be found in the 1913 edition of "Who's Who."

## APPENDIX.

### COAT OF ARMS.

Mrs. Jennie Fossett Nichols of Round Pond, Me., writes of the combined coat of arms of Coombs and Sproul as follows:

About 120 years ago my grandfather (Capt. Samuel Coombs) when in France on a voyage had the Coombs and Sproul (his wife's) Coat-of-arms combined, and we have it in its original frame. There are three red lions facing you on a field of white. The story goes with it that a Coombs in the early days of France showed great bravery, and won this coat-of-arms. My grandfather paid \$40. to have it painted in France, either in Bordeaux or Marseilles, I do not know which city. Being an American he had it draped in American flags. Without doubt, Samuel Coombs had these shields combined in France about 1795. Where he obtained the originals, no one knows.

Mrs. Nichols has made a beautiful copy in water colors as a birthday present for her daughter. Inside the frame of the original picture was an explanatory paper which reads as follows:

Armorial Ensign of Coombs.

Argent 3 lions Passant Guardiant Guls.

Crest — a Dimne Lion Ramp't Guls.

Motto, Vincet Omnia Veritas.

English, Truth overcomes all things.

Az a Chevron argent Between 3 Purses *or*

By the name of Sproul.

“Argent” means silver.

“Passant” means walking.



ARMORIAL ENSIGN of COOMBS & SPROUL

COOMBS AND SPROUL COAT OF ARMS COMBINED.  
COOMBS ON THE LEFT.



“Guardant” means facing the spectator.

“Gules” means red.

The lions placed this way, passant, signify resolution.

Crest:

“Demi” means half.

“Rampant” means rearing. It signifies magnanimity.

“Azure” means blue.

A “chevron” signifies a non-commissioned officer.

The “*or*” after the “3 purses” means their color is gold.

Probably the Sprouls gave money to the king to carry on some war.

### SKETCH OF MISS LAVINA C. COOMBS,

By Herself.

Born Nov. 23, 1849, so I've been told, but I *have* doubted it. I don't remember it myself, and it isn't well to depend too much on other people's statements, and judging from my feelings about the middle of the rains, it might have been 1829, or from feelings in the bright October days, with the north breezes bringing life and strength, it might have been 1869. Father and mother each a Coombs—the former David and the latter Sarah, known throughout the neighborhood as “Captain David” and “Aunt Sally.” Childhood passed on a farm at West Bowdoin, Me.,—fatherless from six years old, and very little remembrance of play-days, but much of work, yet happy in that and school life in a “little red schoolhouse,” so near that I could run home for dinner at the noon intermission, thus making it a great treat when some New England snow-storm necessitated taking my dinner.

Later on, when about thirteen, becoming a Christian (nominal at least), baptized, and joining the Church, but with very vague ideas of what it all meant. Singing in the choir of the little

country Church, becoming a Sunday-school teacher, going away to school at Litchfield Academy, teaching country schools, "boarding round," ambitions growing, attendance at Normal School, Farmington, illness and consequent broken plans, more teaching, then my mother's long illness of two years, during which I was with her night and day till her death, which brought more wonderings and indecision as to what next.

During the greater part of these years there had been an increasing knowledge of and desire to know more of the closer relations belonging to the true Christian and his Christ. Regular attendance upon divine worship and at the prayer meetings wherever and whenever opportunity offered, a conscientious regard for private devotions, teaching in Sunday schools, with the necessary preparation of the lessons and attendance at teachers' meetings, fed and in a measure met this desire. Happy acquaintance with some living in these close relations and the reading of helpful books on this line brought my soul to recognize and love its "Lover" and to *rest* in that love.

Up to the time of my mother's death my interest in missions had been general, as a loyal Free Baptist, and in particular as a correspondent of Miss Crawford's. These letters had caused my mother some anxiety, and before her death she spoke of the time when I should have become a missionary, though my own mind had not reached that far, even in desire, much less in anticipation.

By a combination of circumstances I found myself an inmate of Professor Hayes' family in Lewiston, where the atmosphere was such as to foster interest in missions and, in my case, to cause that interest to develop into a desire to join those already in the foreign field, and by an assurance from dear Mrs. Hayes that "it is the Jesus in you wanting to go," to make me think of the possibility of the fulfilment of that desire. Here I attended high school and "worked my board," and afterwards taught in a district school near by, where was good opportunity for missionary work, as well as in a night school in Lewiston itself.

Then more restlessness and an application for a teacher's post





MISS LAVINA C. COOMBS



in Montana, from whence had come an advertisement for lady teachers from the East. While this was pending came the call to India from the Woman's Missionary Society, which I accepted gladly as an honor, for though there had been an increasing desire for this work, yet I had the then prevalent idea that missionaries are of a higher mould and less earthly type than other mortals, and I could never be good enough for one, so when the call seemed unmistakable I eagerly accepted it, believing he who called me knew the needs of the work and my limitations, and if he thought me fit to go, I was only too glad to do so. That was in 1882. Then in 1894 a trip home in a sailing ship, a stay in the dear homeland of eighteen months, and the voyage back, made a break of two years, and in December, 1895, again I was ready to take hold with new life and a more determined grip. My work in India has been varied. But work in the zenanas has occupied more or less of my time during my entire period of service. The forenoon, usually, is given up to this, and the rest of the day is devoted to some work connected with the Christian community—women's prayer-meeting, Band of Hope, Workers' Bible Class, sewing circle, native women's W.C.T.U., or in writing letters, and straightening up accounts.

Now, after seeing our Christian communities steadily enlarge, our churches gradually adopting self-support, our schools advancing in numbers and grade, Hindu antipathies melting, female education gaining ground, and a strong sect of their own rejecting idolatry, I am home again in 1904, rejoicing in whatever of success has been gained, and not cast down by the disappointments met.

I have come to know that the "effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." — *F.B.W.M.S., July, 1904.*

#### DEED FROM INDIANS TO THOMAS STEPHENS.

This Indenture made the third day of July and in the seven & twentieth Year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles the Second by the Grace of God King of England Scotland France

& Ireland defender of the faith & in the Year of our Lord Christ one thousand Six hundred seventy & five, Between Roben Hooode, Derumken, Danell Roben, Maneweremet Indian Satkamores of this place, on the one part and Thomas Stephens, Yeoman, of Pejepsco<sup>t</sup> river on the other part.


Witnesseth that the sd Roben Hooode, Derumken, Danell Roben Maneweremett for and in consideration of a certain sum of good & sufficient pay at & before the ensealing and delivery of these presents well and truly in hand paid by the said Thomas Stephens whereof and wherewith we the sd Roben Hooode Derumken, Danell, Roben Maneweremett, doth acknowledge themselves fully satisfied & paid. Hath given granted aliened bargained sold & confirmed & by these presents doth fully & clearly & absolutely grant aliene bargain sell & Confirm unto the said Thomas Stephens a certain piece or parcell of Land adjoyning to Pejepsco<sup>t</sup> river butted & bounded as followeth, to the Land of Thomas Stephens now in posession, East, And to *Alester Coombs* his Land South. And from the head of *Alester Coombs* his marsh westerly to a certain path commonly called the Carrying path or the Carrying place, and from the sd upon a straight line to a certain Island commonly called Stave Island, standing at the lower end of Pejepsco<sup>t</sup> narrows; and to Pejepsco<sup>t</sup> river North, and to the afores<sup>d</sup> Lands of Thomas Stephens Easterly; with all woods underwoods, common & Commonage of pasture & other Heriditaments to the same belonging or pertaining.


To Have & To Hold the s<sup>d</sup> parcell of Land & all & singular others the premises hereby granted bargained sold or mentioned to be herein; or hereby granted & sold with their and every of their rights members & appurtenances w<sup>t</sup>soever unto the s<sup>d</sup> Thomas Stephens and to thee heirs & assigns of the said Thomas Stephens for ever to the only proper use & behoof of the s<sup>d</sup> Thomas Stephens his heirs and assigns forever. And that the s<sup>d</sup> Roben Hooode, Derumken, Danell Roben Maneweremet for themselves, notwithstanding any Act done by them to the Contrary at the time of the Ensealing & delivery of these presents;


is and standeth Lawfully & rightfully seized in their demisms as of fee simple against us ourselves our heirs & assigns & all & every other person and persons Lawfully claiming from us under us & them or any of them shall & will warrant & defend by these presents.


In Witness hereof we the s<sup>d</sup> Roben Hooode, Derumkin, Danell, Roben, Maneweremet have hereunto set our hands & seals the day & Year first above written.


Signed Sealed and delivered in presence of us.


William  Davis


<sup>his mark</sup>  
Roben  Hooode (a seal)


 (a seal)


Danell  his mark (a seal)

Arramosena  his mark

Roben  his mark (a seal)

Maneweremet  his mark (a seal)

<sup>his mark</sup>  
John  Davis

Gosehund  his mark

James Giles

Recorded According to y<sup>e</sup> Original Nov<sup>r</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1719  
p Jos Hamond Reg<sup>r</sup>

York Deeds, book 9, fol. 254.





"MORE COOMBS'S ARE COMING." NAOMI, NORMAN, AVICE, OLIN, AND  
"BAY LADY"



















